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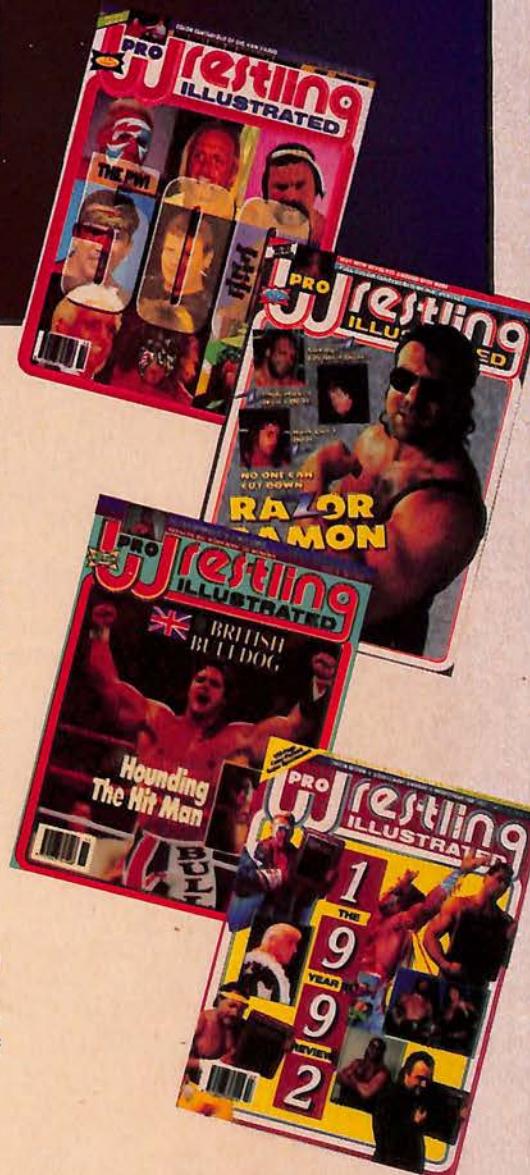
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# THE Wrestler

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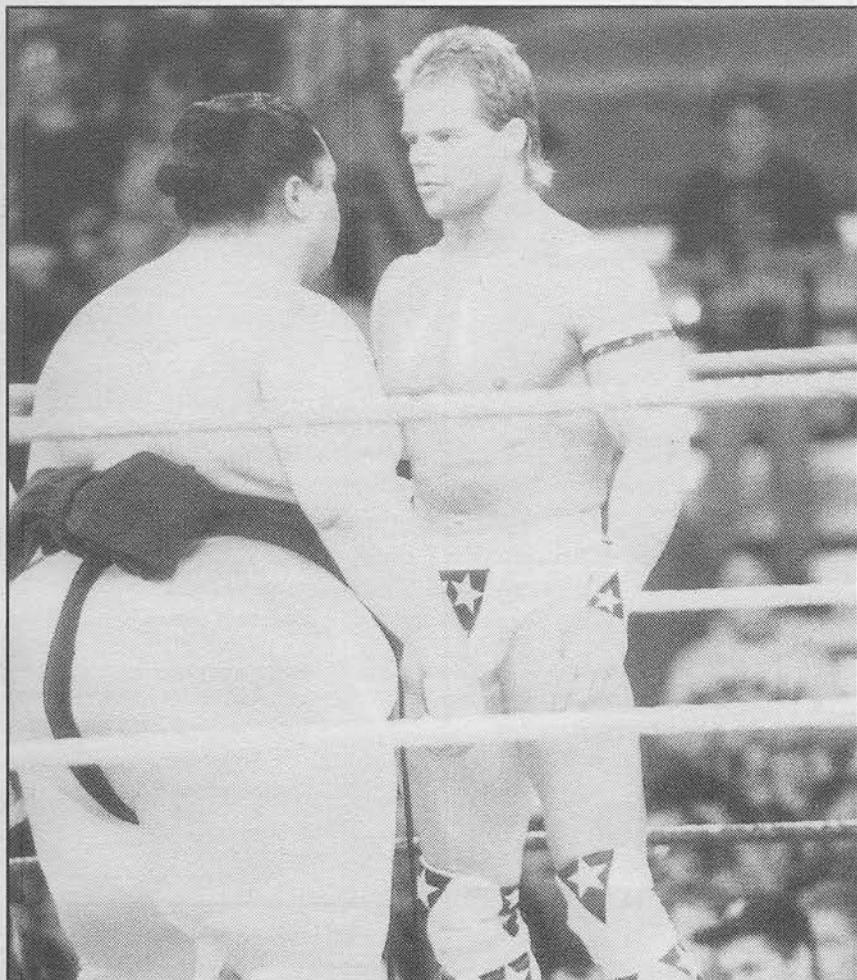
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# YOUR LETTERS

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Perhaps Lex Luger (right) was satisfied with beating Yokozuna by countout at SummerSlam. Reader Joel Bartley wasn't, saying Luger should have been smart enough to seek the pin since this was his only shot at the WWF World title.

## LUGER'S A LOSER

I feel like I've been robbed after having watched SummerSlam on pay-per-view. I paid \$27.50, expecting a clean-cut victory by Lex Luger or Yokozuna. What's more irritating is that Luger was celebrating a countout victory as if

he expected to lose.

The clause in the contract that indicated this was his only shot at the title should have been added incentive for Luger to break the referee's count, roll the behemoth back into the ring, and go for the pin.

Lex is getting too predictable with his World title quests (remember Ric Flair?), which always lead to one thing—failure. Maybe this time it was partially a guilt trip; Bret Hart was more deserving of that title shot.

One thing's for sure: I will not pay to see another Luger-Yokozuna encounter. Once is enough!

JOEL BARTLEY  
Chicago

## INTERNATIONAL STYLE

I was pleasantly surprised to see a rare story covering Japanese wrestling in your magazine ("Terry Gordy And Stan Hansen: Best Friends By Day, Deadly Enemies By Night," October 1993). Many fans don't realize the level of competition there is far superior to anything in the U.S. For instance, how many of you know that Steve Williams pinned Davey Boy Smith, or that Hansen pinned Big Van Vader?

I also appreciate that Japanese fans are into substance over style. Gordy, Hansen, and Williams sport no fancy attire or gimmicks; they just represent wrestling's old school by doing just that—wrestling.

It's a shame we no longer get to see any of that trio, or any of the top Japanese stars, in WCW. So I hope to see more coverage

of this different part of the sport in future issues, as well as maybe an article on the European CWA.

PETER KOWALCZYK  
Middlesex, England

### THAT'S KINGLY!

Finally I have found an intelligent wrestling fan. In the October 1993 issue of THE WRESTLER, reader Jim Imbruglia said that



"The King" interviews the head honcho: Jerry Lawler talks with Vince McMahon, symbol of the WWF he so despises. Reader Scott Bailey enjoys Lawler's interviews and notes that he has beaten Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, and other famed foes.

Jerry Lawler's "King's Court" on WWF telecasts is the best television segment ever. No matter what any magazine or any fan says, "The King" will still live on. He is a 15-time USWA champion, a record no other wrestler has achieved. He has beaten the Flairs, the Hogans, the Savages, etc. The next title belt around his waist will be the WWF World title.

SCOTT BAILEY  
Bricktown, NJ

### MUTE THE CORNETTE

Engineers must have had someone like Jim Cornette in mind when they created the



Jim Cornette's abrasive style irritates reader Art Backstrom, who wonders where he got the authority to allow Lex Luger only one title shot at Yokozuna.

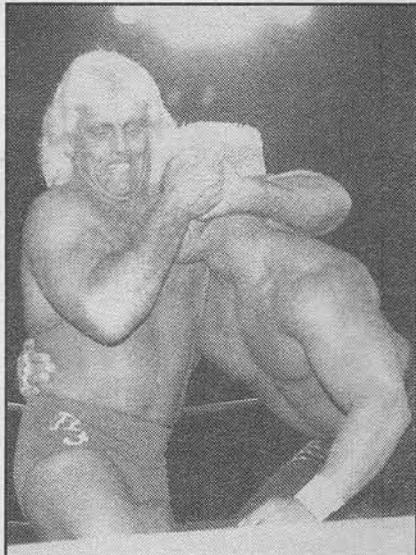
"mute" button on the VCR remote. How did he manage to get the authority to allow Lex Luger only one shot at Yokozuna? I thought Jack Tunney was in charge of who wrestled who. Is he parceling out some of his huge workload?

Yokozuna must have doubts about his future. Now he has the "Mouth" and the "Salt Shaker" to interfere when things get too rough. The other so-called champs, Big Van Vader and Shawn Michaels, only have one interferer apiece.

ART BACKSTROM  
Midlothian, IL

### MAN TO THE 10TH POWER

In 1982, when Ric Flair came to the NWA, I had only heard of him and seen a few pictures. I



Ric Flair's success in the NWA made a fan out of reader Barry Olenchick. He calls Flair (battling Sting on New Year's Day, 1989) the greatest wrestler in history.

watched him wrestle for about six weeks and I said to myself, "This is the man. He will rule. He will win the heavyweight title within months." Of course, he did.

I tried to tell everybody how great he was. Nobody seemed to care, or told me I was crazy, but now he is 10 times the heavyweight champion. That says it all. Without a doubt, he is the greatest wrestler that ever climbed into the ring. So to all those doubters and skeptics, I'd just like to say, "10 times the man, 10 times the man." Whoooo!

BARRY OLENCHICK  
Indiana, PA

### WHY X-RAY POLO?

Johnny Polo (a.k.a. Scotty Flamingo) featured in the "X-Ray" segment (November 1993)? Oh, please. Couldn't you pick a more interesting subject than this spoiled, silver spoon-fed milksop? The guy is an insignificant zero. He accomplished absolutely nothing other than briefly winning the now-defunct WCW light heavyweight title. (Continued on page 54)

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

By Bill Apter

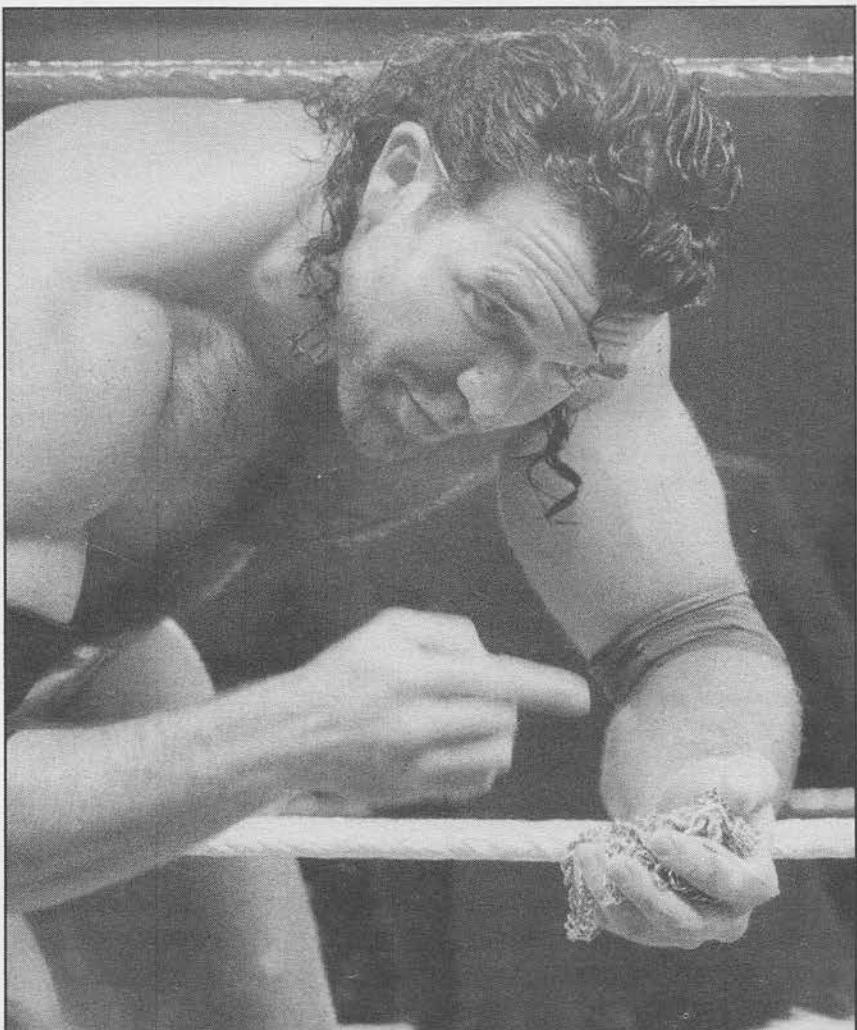
**R**AZOR RAMON IS in and Shawn Michaels is out as the WWF's Intercontinental champion. Michaels had dominated the I-C scene for close to a year, but his second reign ended when the federation stripped him of the belt for failing to live up to undisclosed contractual agreements.

It then held a 20-man, over-the-top-rope battle royal on *WWF Monday Night Raw* in New Haven, Connecticut. Ramon and **Rick Martel** were the last two remaining in the ring; that gave them the right to face off later in the evening for the belt. Ramon won the I-C title by pinfall.

What an opportunity for Martel, though. He had just returned to the federation and came within a heartbeat of winning one of the WWF's most coveted prizes. Among the other battle royal participants was "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka, who returned to the federation two days earlier at Madison Square Garden. He defeated USWA standout Brian Christopher in the Big Apple.

I wonder if **Diesel**, Michaels' bodyguard, is going to revert to his old **Vinnie Vegas** identity and wrestle full-time again.

New WWF World tag team champs, **The Quebecers**, who won their title under "Province Of



He's got gold in his hand and around his waist. Razor Ramon, long considered an underachiever, captured the vacant WWF I-C title by defeating Rick Martel.

Quebec" rules at *Raw* two weeks earlier, barely escaped New Haven with the belts. They survived a surprisingly tough challenge from **The Kid** and **Barry**

**Horowitz**. Can you see Horowitz, who's called "The Winner" for the same reason big men are nicknamed "Tiny," wearing a title belt? Me, neither.



Fifi, Ric Flair's maid, cheers on the "Nature Boy" during his match with Rick Rude. In the middle of his bout with Flair, Rude dragged Fifi into the ring and kissed her.

WCW World champ **Big Van Vader** appears to be on a collision course with fellow power bomber **Sid Vicious**. Big Sid and manager **Col. Robert Parker** just haven't been getting along. I don't think we've seen the last of one **Sid Justice**.

Another shocker to me was seeing **Missy Hyatt** managing **The Nasty Boys** to the WCW World tag team championship at Fall Brawl. I could picture her with someone like **Rick Rude** or **Paul Orndorff**, both of whom think as much of themselves as Missy does of herself, but **Brian Knobs** and **Jerry Sags**? But who can argue ... the Nastys won.

Rumor has it that Hyatt, despite her ditzy personality, actually knows her wrestling and even helped Sags and Knobs with strategy. But the Nastys' reign was

surprisingly short, as they were dethroned several weeks later by **2 Cold Scorpio** and **Marcus**

#### Alexander Bagwell.

Hyatt wasn't the only WCW beauty at Fall Brawl. However, it wasn't a happy night for **Fifi**, **Ric Flair's maid**.

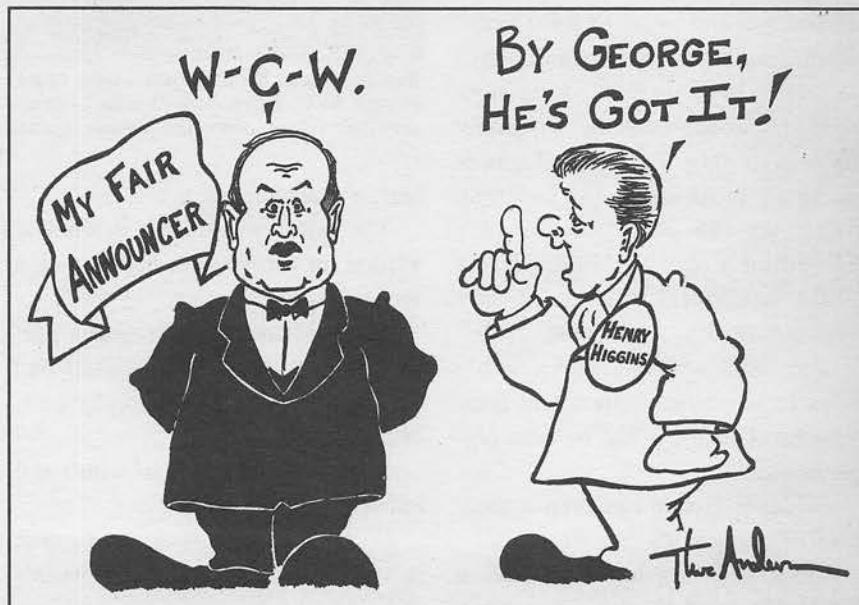
Fifi accompanied Flair to his match with Rude. Not only did Flair lose his title, but Fifi also had to experience the humiliation of seeing a likeness of herself on Rude's tights. At one point in the match, the "Ravishing One" even kissed her passionately on the lips and dragged her into the ring after she slapped him.

More news involving the lovely women of our sport: **Tammy Fytch**, who arrogantly refers to herself as "The First Lady Of Smoky Mountain Wrestling," now has some tough competition. Former Smoky Mountain champion **Tracey Smothers** has hired **Sherri Martel**, late of the WWF, as his valet.

Her job is to keep an eye on Fytch so Smothers can get a fair shake in his bouts with current titleholder **Brian Lee**. A lot of

(Continued on page 56)

## STEVE ANDERSON'S VIEW



# NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum

HERE'S HOW THINGS usually work around here: I get to criticize Hulk Hogan's movie ventures twice before Saks, Peters, or one of the come-and-goers, rings me up and says, "No more Hogan columns."

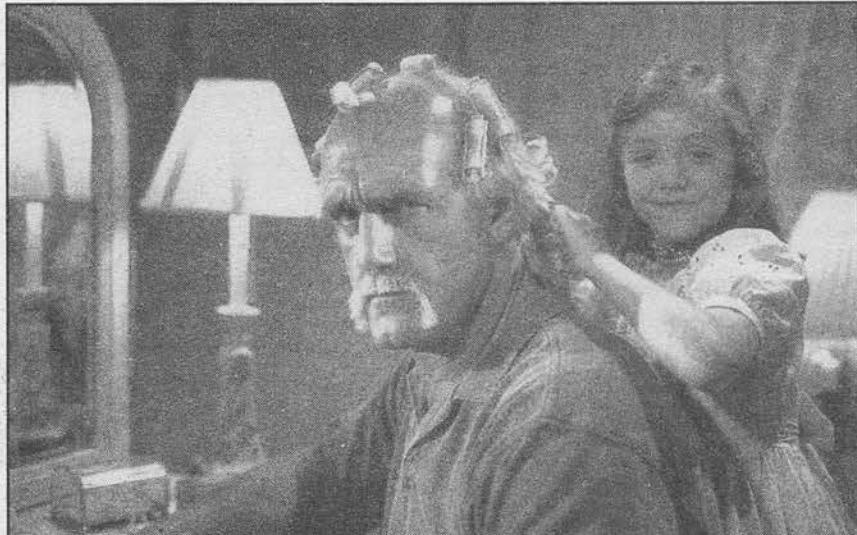
That being the case, I'm going to set my limit at two columns concerning Hogan's latest celluloid disgrace. I am going to resist temptation the third time, even though the third time is usually the charm (and you, readers, never get to see it).

You see, I'm going to resist temptation simply because Hogan doesn't deserve to have his movie roles mentioned in anyone's column, especially mine, even once. But since Hogan is the single most influential wrestling figure of the past two decades (including Vince McMahon Jr.), I could not merely shrug off my responsibilities as a journalist.

The "Hulkster" in a movie is big news to wrestling writers and fans. Now here's what would be even *bigger* news:

Evidence Hogan has even a modicum of acting skills.

Evidence McMahon isn't paying off Hollywood producers to keep



A scene from Hulk Hogan's new opus, *Mr. Nanny*. The film was originally titled *Rough Stuff*; Dave Rosenbaum believes it was changed once audiences at sneak previews began using the phrase to describe the film.

Hogan's name in lights.

The day Hogan appears in a movie written for people with higher than a second-grade education.

The realization on Hogan's part that he is embarrassing himself and the sport he made a living on for parts of three decades.

Some evidence Hogan won't sell himself for anything.

So far, I haven't seen any of that; in fact, at press time, I still hadn't seen *Mr. Nanny*.

I'm resisting. I'm waiting. In fact, I don't plan on seeing *Mr. Nanny* until it opens. Then, I will plant my butt in a back row seat at the Coral Square Cinema (preferably for an afternoon screening when nobody else is there) and hope the popcorn is good enough to salvage the afternoon.

You see, I can't really pan this film until I see it.

If it's as good as *Suburban Commando* or *No Holds Barred*,  
(Continued on page 58)

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BY  
ANDY  
RODRIGUEZ

BRIAN LEE WAS not having an easy time defending the Smoky Mountain heavyweight title against Tracey Smothers. Desperate to defeat the man who beat him for the belt, Smothers had Lee in danger of becoming an ex-champion.

But the danger didn't last long. Lee received some crucial interference, scored the pin, and kept the championship.

This is not a column about Lee, however. It is about the woman who keeps him champion.

The success of Tammy Fytch has been among the biggest surprises on the independent circuit this year. The rookie, who received her manager's license after threatening Smoky Mountain with a sexual discrimination suit, already is a key figure on the SMW scene.

"I knew that as soon as I got into a position of authority I would have no trouble exercising my influence," she said. "This sport has been run by men almost exclusively for far too long now. I'm now in a perfect position to begin to make changes that were way overdue."

Fytch never would have achieved success without anyone to manage. The men of Smoky Mountain didn't want to listen to this "troublemaker" from Connecticut. Lee turned her down once, but reconsidered after turning against his old friend Smothers.

"Most of the women in this sport try to win you over with their looks," he offered. "Tammy was different. She had some real solid advice that made a lot of sense. She's an intelligent woman. Maybe I didn't realize that before, but I sure do now."

Fytch has a different take on the situation.

"He's a big, dumb guy who was lost without me," she said matter-of-factly. "Brian's a sweetheart, but no one can seriously believe that he would be champion today had it not been for what I've done."

Strong words from a powerful personality. Fytch is equally forthright in expressing her admiration of Hillary Rodham Clinton. She proudly compares herself with the President's wife.

"Hillary does what she thinks is right and damn the consequences," said Fytch, like the First Lady a product of elite private schooling. "She's taken a lot of heat from the critics, but she hangs in there. That's exactly what I face every day in Smoky Mountain."

The way she looks up to Mrs. Clinton has helped make Fytch extremely unpopular among Smoky Mountain fans, whose ranks, it would be safe to say, include more Rush Limbaugh listeners than readers of *The New Republic*. Still, this is wrestling, and the fans have plenty of reason to boo Fytch more for her managerial tactics than her politics.

No denying her methods have been underhanded. She helped Lee win the SMW belt by handing him a loaded coal miner's glove; he subsequently used it on Smothers en route to the pin. She has also sprayed Lee's foes in the eyes with hair spray.

In defense, Fytch offers typical rulebreaker excuses. Still, there is something compelling about the way this woman has asserted herself.

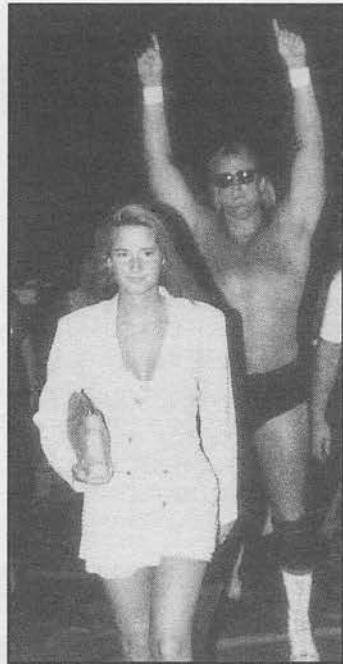
"I'll be honest with you," said fellow SMW manager and former commissioner Jim Cornette. "I don't think women belong in this sport as anything more than valets, but Tammy's a smart, tough lady. She's certainly proven herself as a manager. I have more respect for her than I do for most of these clowns."

If Fytch were a fan favorite, she'd be awesome, truly a role model. But for now, we'll have to live with the rulebreaking Ms. Fytch, which isn't too bad. She has proved to be more than a figurehead and much more than a valet.

I like her, and I hope her success inspires more women to try for leadership roles in wrestling.

But, please, no loaded coal miner's gloves.

Tammy Fytch, leading SMW champion Brian Lee into the ring, has called Hillary Rodham Clinton an inspiration. We doubt the First Lady ever wore a dress like this, but then she's never been a rulebreaking manager, either. □



Tammy Fytch & Brian Lee



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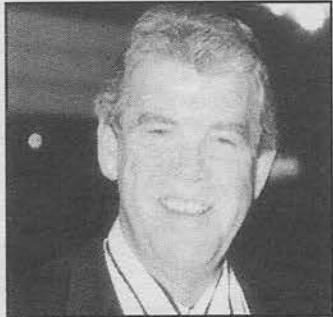
# Thumbs Up



Each Issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



**Thumbs Up** to Cactus Jack. He isn't too smart, but he certainly is courageous. Can we really ask anything more of an athlete? While we would never expect Jack to do it, he had every reason to run and hide after nearly getting paralyzed by Vader. But instead of running, the madman from Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, is facing the enemy—Vader. Harley Race keeps throwing obstacles in the way, but nothing stops Cactus Jack. Every great athlete's natural instinct is to fight adversity and overcome challenges. Despite his past offenses and his lifelong odd behavior, Jack deserves respect. Maybe Vader power-bombed the wrong man this time.



**Thumbs Up** to Jack Tunney. Don't touch that page! There's nothing wrong with your magazine; it hasn't been printed backward. We really mean it this time. Tunney acted bravely and properly when he made Jerry Lawler wrestle Bret Hart at SummerSlam '93. If only all federation heads (especially Tunney!) would act so daringly all the time. The fans paid to see Lawler vs. Hart. The match was contracted for and signed. Lawler's supposed automobile accident was clearly a fraud and he had no right to back out of the match. When Tunney threatened Lawler with a lifetime ban from the WWF, he sounded like a strong president. And, for once, he was.



**Thumbs Up** to Sherri Martel. No doubt about it, Tammy Fyatch is in trouble now. Sherri—who no longer calls herself “Sensational”—plans on helping former titleholder Tracey Smothers unseat Brian Lee as Smoky Mountain heavyweight champion. Lee has been aided for months by the devious but ingenious Fyatch, who not only plans his strategy, but interferes in most of his matches. That won't happen with Martel around. She has signed on as Smothers' valet and plans on paying special attention to Fyatch. Why do we believe the SMW title is on the verge of changing hands? Because Smothers is a better wrestler than Lee, and Sherri is much more imposing than Fyatch. Just ask Luna Vachon.



**Thumbs Up** to The Shockmaster. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* called Shockmaster's performance at War Games “wrestling's equivalent of the waterboy scoring the winning touchdown.” Sure, and in the Super Bowl! Team Vader seemingly had a huge advantage over Team Sting at Fall Brawl '93. With four genuine wrestlers on its side, all of them tough and dangerous, Team Vader was ready to roll. Amazingly, Team Sting won, thanks to a fearless effort by Shockmaster. He squeezed the life out of Kole, forcing the Harlem Heat member into submission. For those of us who thought Dustin Rhodes, Sting, or Davey Boy Smith would get the win, Shockmaster's bearhug was a shocker.

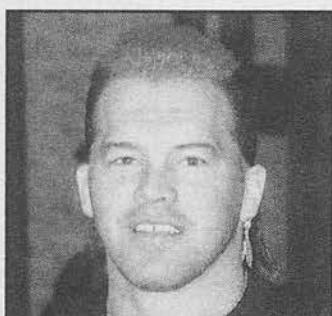
# Thumbs Down



**Thumbs Down** to Missy Hyatt. While we respect her desire to gain revenge against Ric Flair and The Four Horsemen for mistreating her, in no way do we agree with Missy's method to her means. Hyatt was supposedly acting in the capacity of wrestling journalist at Fall Brawl '93 until she came out to manage The Nasty Boys in their match against Arn Anderson and Paul Roma. Leaving her post to get involved was unethical. Missy has the right to be either a journalist or manager. She can't be both, especially at the same time. We suggest that WCW officials ban Hyatt from all future broadcasts. She obviously isn't impartial and obviously can't be trusted.



**Thumbs Down** to Bret Hart. We probably could have filled these two pages with comments on the Bret Hart vs. Jerry Lawler match at SummerSlam '93. Lawler's behavior was despicable, but what Hart did shocked us more. The "Hitman" has been an example of sportsmanship in recent years. As a result, most people were on his side in the feud with Lawler. But one can't excuse Hart for refusing to release the sharpshooter he placed on Lawler at SummerSlam. As referees and federation officials tugged away, Hart kept the sharpshooter on Lawler for more than three minutes. Revenge was the perfect motive, but did Hart realize how seriously he could have injured Lawler? Yes, we think he did.



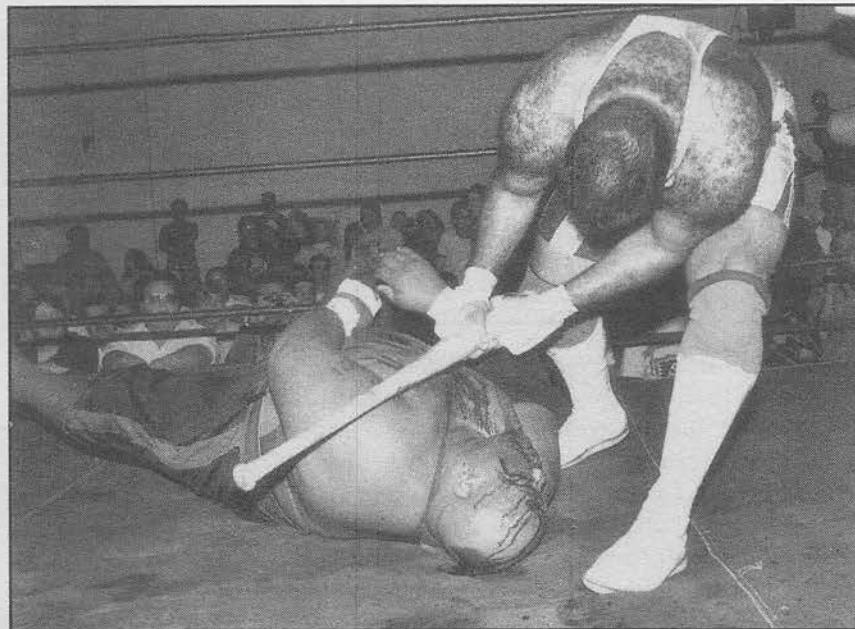
**Thumbs Down** to Tatanka. The stereotype of Native Americans sadly hasn't changed much. To many ignorant people, they're uneducated, unemployed drunks who live in slovenly surroundings. This, of course, isn't true. Lately, another uncomplimentary stereotype has been added: casino operators. Tatanka was doing much to improve the image of his people, but it all blew up when he wrestled on a USWA card in Memphis. Tatanka won the federation's title from Jerry Lawler, but did it as a rule-breaker. He was booed loudly from the moment he made his entrance and then displayed an insolent attitude we hadn't seen. Frankly, we were very surprised. Tatanka should know better.



**Thumbs Down** to Jim Cornette. It doesn't matter whether he was impeached or if he resigned. The only important thing is that Cornette is no longer Smoky Mountain Wrestling commissioner. He's up to a new set of tricks in the WWF, where The Heavenly Bodies are battling long-time foes The Rock 'n' Roll Express, but we can live with that. What we can't live with is Cornette exerting too much influence on the federations where he works. Becoming SMW commissioner was ridiculous. In the WWF, he got a World tag team title match at SummerSlam '93 for the Bodies, and forced federation officials to limit Lex Luger to one World title match. Cornette cannot be allowed this much power. □

# CORRESPONDENTS

# REPORTS



Miguel Perez Jr. isn't from Kentucky, but he gave new meaning to the words "Louisville slugger" at an ECW card in Philadelphia. He clubbed Malfat of The Headhunters with a baseball bat during a violent tag team match.

**Philadelphia, PA (Correspondents—Tony Karantonis & Andy Conlin):** It was originally billed as a barbed wire bat match, but the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission outlawed the barbed wire, so Eastern Championship Wrestling fans had to settle for a simple baseball bat match pitting Miguel Perez Jr. and Crash the Terminator against those rugged Headhunters.

The teams started at opposite

ends of the building; after the crowd counted down from 10, the wrestlers rushed toward the ring to get the bat. Crash got the weapon and used it on one Headhunter outside the ring. Perez brawled with the other on a scaffold. All the combatants were bleeding profusely after just a few minutes.

Both teams used the bat throughout the arena. They also used a hammer, the bell, and chairs before Perez was ultimately

pinned after about 20 minutes.

In other bouts: Public Enemy beat Axl Rotten & Jason Leigh ... Pennsylvania State champion Tony Stetson defeated Tommy Cairo ... In a mask vs. mask match, Super Destroyer I defeated Super Destroyer II ... In a scaffold match, Dark Patriot beat J.T. Smith ... In a Texas tornado match, Terry Funk & Stan Hansen beat Kevin Sullivan & Abdullah the Butcher by disqualification ... Tigra won a \$5,000 mixed battle royal, eliminating Angel ... Heavyweight champion Shane Douglas pinned The Sandman ... Sal Bellomo pinned Sir Richard Michaels.

**Uniondale, NY (Correspondent—William Brown):** There were a lot of big men in the ring when Giant Gonzales and Adam Bomb faced off against The Undertaker and "Macho Man" Randy Savage. Bomb opened the match against Savage, using an arm twist to weaken the "Macho Man." Savage escaped, but then felt the pain of a Bomb bodyslam.

Chokeholds dominated when arch-rivals Undertaker and

(Continued on page 60)

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WRESTLER'S NAME (PLEASE BE ORIGINAL)

17	18	19	20
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HEIGHT

WEIGHT

SEX

RACE

21	22	23	24
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HAIR COLOR

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BIRTHDAY

21	22	23	24
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**Q:** "My question is for Jerry Lawler: You claim to be the only 'King' of wrestling, but how do you think you and Jeff Jarrett would do as a tag team in the WWF, competing against teams like the Steiners, The Quebecers, and The Heavenly Bodies?"—Michael S. Walters, New Haven, CT

**A:** "That's right, I am this sport's only 'King,' and it's going to stay that way," replied Lawler. "If Jeff wants to come to the WWF now and then, it'd be my pleasure to team with him. He's much more talented than any of the has-been fan favorites who wrestle in the WWF. We'd wipe the mat with losers like Rick and Scott Steiner in about two minutes. If you're a WWF fan, Mike, you're probably too stupid to remember that I was a member of the original

# YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR questions!

Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones!

Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to:  
**YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER,**  
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snarled Vicious. "Sid Vicious is the man who rules the world. Anyone who doesn't know that by now is a fool. I have the most devastating power bomb this sport has ever seen. I could cripple half of the guys in WCW in a single day if I wanted to. Yeah, I'm getting real hungry for a title, and I'll have one before you know it. If it means challenging Vader, then so be it. When I set my mind to doing something, it's going to happen. I have big plans for winning a title, but I'm not stupid enough to tell everyone about it."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "A question for "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase: Now that you and Irwin R. Schyster have broken up and you're wrestling a lot in Japan, how do you think Irwin will do on his own?"—Ronald K. Hartsberg, Columbia, MO

**A:** "Do you realize how annoying it is for me to have to tell moronic fans such as you that Money Inc. is still together?" said DiBiase. "Just because we're not currently wrestling together doesn't mean there's no more Money Inc. Irwin and I decided we wanted different things for the time being. We talk on the phone all the time, and we're still very good friends. Maybe we'll wait for Razor Ramon and The Kid to form a tag team. Then I'll come back, and me and IRS will get rid of both in one match. Don't worry about Irwin. He'll be wearing a singles belt within a few months. Bank on it."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "My question is for Missy Hyatt: How can a lady as pretty as you stand being around those gross

(Continued on page 62)



Jerry Lawler a Heavenly Body? You better believe it. The Memphis monarch teamed with Don Greene in the original version of the duo. They're being interviewed by Gordon Solie in 1976 concerning an upcoming match with Jack and Jerry Brisco. Lawler says he could still be a great tag teamer.

**Heavenly Bodies.** No offense to Jim Cornette's fine men, but it was me and Don Greene back in the 1970s. We really gave our opponents hell."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "My question is for Sid Vicious:

16 The Wrestler

You've been teaming with WCW World champ Big Van Vader as The Masters of the Power Bomb. Is there any chance you might oppose him in the future?"—Tony Finley, Liberty, SC

**A:** "What business is it of yours?"

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next

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**Actual questions**

Which young WCW star is known as "The Natural"?

- 1) Steve Austin
- 2) Scotty the Body
- 3) Dustin Rhodes
- 4) Robert Redford

Who portrayed Thunderlips in the film *Rocky III*?

- 1) Hulk Hogan
- 2) Lou Albano
- 3) Jesse Ventura
- 4) Rick Martel

Which of the following wrestlers is "Ravishing"?

- 1) Ron Ritchie
- 2) Dusty Rhodes
- 3) Rick Steamboat
- 4) Rick Rude

True or False: Jesse Ventura was a member of the elite Navy Seals?

- 1) True
- 2) False

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# INTRODUCING ROBBIE EAGLE

By V.J. Paterno

WHEN ROBBIE EAGLE was growing up in North Carolina, he loved watching wrestling, both live and on television. He had many favorites, but especially liked Terry and Dory Funk, Ric Flair, and the Andersons. Now he shares their profession, and is making waves in Smoky Mountain Wrestling. "It's kind of like a lifelong dream," he said.

Eagle's making the dream come true by occasionally appearing in the SMW rankings. And while he hasn't won a belt there yet, he's giving its stars reason for concern. Already he has faced Bobby Eaton for the federation's TV title in what he calls his most memorable match to date. "I didn't beat him, but it was instructive," Eagle said. Other bouts have come against Tracey Smothers and Tim Horner; he recently beat Chris Candido twice on SMW telecasts.

"I had to be at my very best in those matches," Eagle said.



"There are so many fine wrestlers in this federation, and you have to be prepared every night."

The 6'1", 250-pounder from Clayton, North Carolina, has a superb amateur background. He won various scholastic wrestling tournaments, including a state championship in 1989. In addition, he played high school football (defensive tackle) and baseball

(first base).

At summer wrestling camps, Eagle learned moves from Division I collegiate coaches while taking on wrestlers from Ohio State and other big-time schools. He also attended a Japanese wrestling school, and nearly qualified for tryouts for the 1988 U.S. Olympic team.

Eagle could have wrestled at

This young North Carolinian is making a name for himself in Smoky Mountain Wrestling. Talented, with a championship amateur background, he should fly high in years to come

the collegiate level, but the lure of pro wrestling was simply too strong. He was trained by three of the greats—Ivan Koloff, Nelson Royal, and the late Gene Anderson.

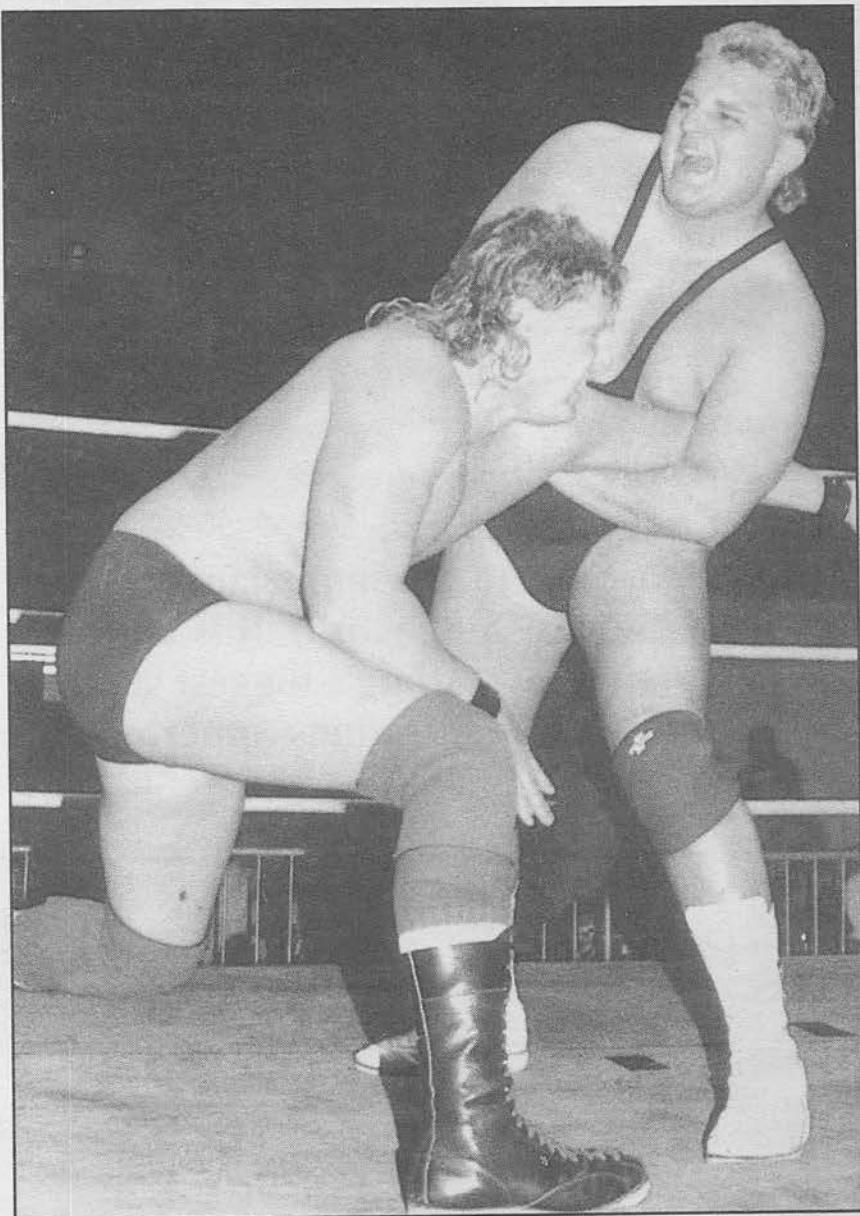
"I learned so much from them. They were aware of my amateur background and what I had accomplished," he said. "It was an honor having them as instructors."

Eagle's pro debut came in the Charlotte-based Atlantic Coast Wrestling. There, he won his first belt to become that federation's youngest champion, as well as the last in ACW history. One of his early thrills was facing Wahoo McDaniel ("That was a blast!", he said). Once ACW folded, he moved on to the Virginia Wrestling Federation, where he also won a championship. He still competes on local independent cards when they don't conflict with his Smoky Mountain schedule.

Eagle describes his style as "basically scientific, but if need be, I can brawl with anyone." His favorite finishing move is the German suplex. He's presently fluctuating between fan favoritism and rulebreaking. "I know it's unfair to the fans to go back and forth," he said, "but at this stage of my career I want to wrestle as many different style opponents as I can, and I don't want to be pigeonholed into one group."

He also doesn't want to get into a regular tag team (though he has teamed with Reno Riggins and Jimmy Garvin) because he feels it will slow down his singles progress. "For now," he said, "this Eagle will fly solo."

Despite his youth, Eagle has already begun looking back on career highlights. "I was recently wrestling this 360-pounder. He



Robbie Eagle puts an armlock on another Smoky Mountain newcomer, Bobby Blaze. These two youngsters should give SMW fans thrills for years to come.

jumped off the second rope with an axhandle," he said. "I caught him by the waist and carried him over my head, belly-to-belly."

Two other bouts had bizarre touches. "Once I was wrestling this masked guy, and I turned his mask inside out so he couldn't see. He tripped over himself!" Eagle said with a chuckle. "Another opponent once ran me around the ring, and I slid underneath the ropes and went to the

concession stand for a soda. The guy kept running."

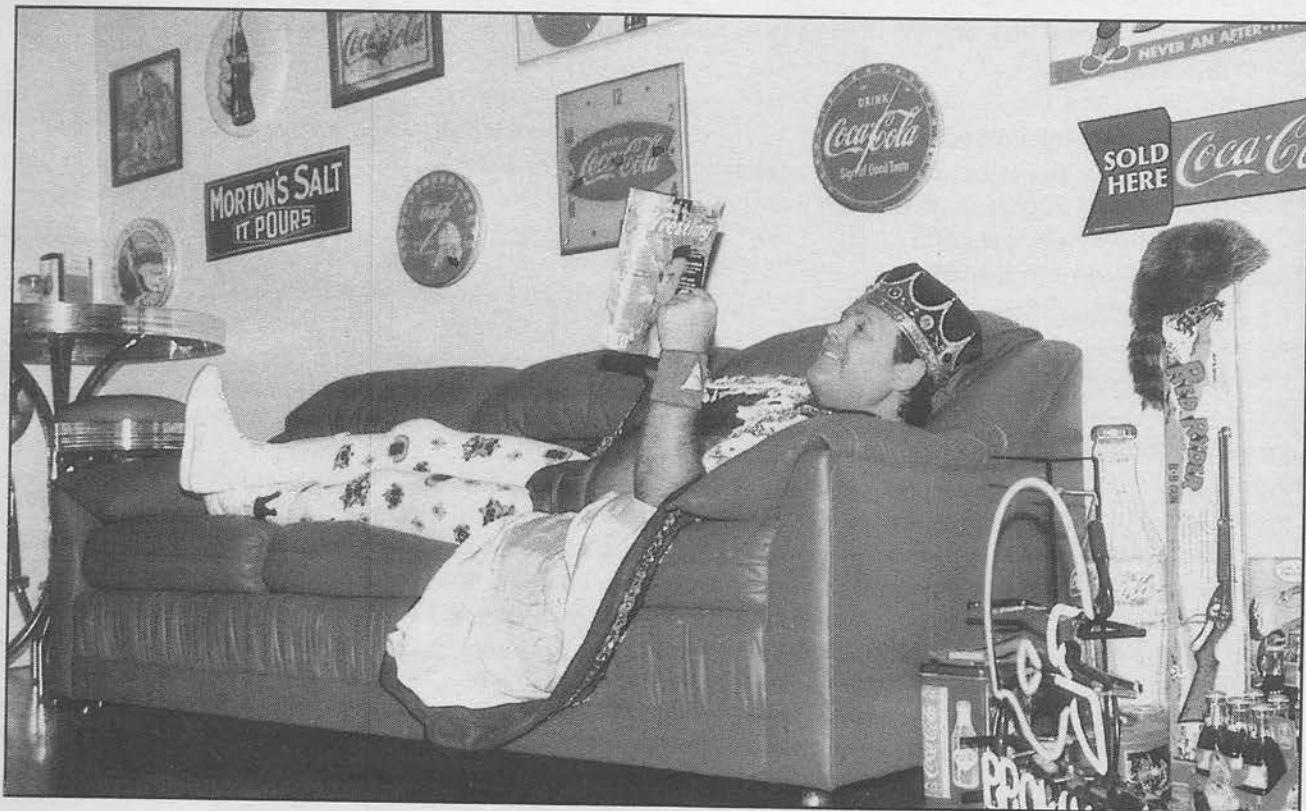
Don't be surprised down the road to see some other Eagles in the ring. "I have two younger brothers who wrestle in high school," he said. "One of them placed third in the state last year. The interest in the Carolinas in wrestling—pro and amateur—is really expanding."

As is the interest in Robbie Eagle. □

# Q&A

Each month,  
*The Wrestler* will  
present a "Question and  
Answer" forum with an important  
figure in the wrestling world. It is your  
chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars  
as they answer the questions uppermost  
in fans' minds

---



When Jerry Lawler's not competing in the ring, he frequently relaxes in his Memphis home and reads magazines such as *Inside Wrestling*. If the smile is indicative, he must have found an uncomplimentary remark about one of the WWF's fan favorites.

# JERRY LAWLER



**H**E POSSIBLY COULD be elected mayor of Memphis; north of the Ohio River, he couldn't become dogcatcher. Beloved in the USWA, despised in the WWF, Jerry Lawler remains one of wrestling's great enigmas and most important personalities.

"The King" has dominated Memphis wrestling for more than two decades. Famed for his colorful attire, durability, and feuds with everyone from Jackie Fargo to Andy Kaufman, Lawler divides wrestling fans like no one else. He inspires devout passion, both for and against. Is he one of the sport's all-time greats, as his defenders attest, or an overrated regional fraud, as his detractors claim?

It's been more than a year since Lawler began competing on WWF cards as part of the USWA-WWF talent agreement. He's invaded WWF territory to feud with Bret Hart and his family; meanwhile, Papa Shango, Tatanka, and other WWF notables have occasionally wrested the USWA crown from the Memphis monarch.

Managing Editor V.J. Paterno recently interviewed Lawler at the Memphis airport, just before "The King" was to leave for a WWF card.

**Q:** You're getting ready to take part in a WWF card. Your feelings about the federation are well-known, as are the fans' reaction toward you. Isn't it occasionally worrisome?

**A:** Not really. Deep down inside, I think they agree with what I'm saying about the WWF, and how its fans blindly follow its publicity. The problem is peer pressure. I think many of them, maybe most of them, agree that WWF wrestlers are overrated or at least no better than what we have here in the USWA. However, they're a bit reluctant to express those feelings in a WWF crowd. If all of them who felt that way shook off the peer pressure, I'd be the most popular wrestler in that federation. Wouldn't that embarrass Vince McMahon?

**Q:** Speaking of embarrassing Vince ...

**A:** Getting him in the ring,

right? It will happen, and it will happen before my fans at Mid-South Coliseum. Vince has to be taught a lesson, and I fully intend to be the instructor. You don't do what he did to me—especially in Memphis. That would be like me causing him to trip and fall in his office. The Coliseum is my office.

**Q:** Good point. You've been part of this USWA-WWF agreement for more than a year now. What has the USWA in general, and you in particular, gained from this exchange?

**A:** Well, though I think the WWF is overrated compared to the USWA, their talent is still considerable. It's been good for our fans in Memphis and Nashville and Louisville and Evansville to see them, especially since the WWF had rarely appeared in those cities beforehand. At times, someone like Tatanka or [Papa] Shango has gotten a lucky

break and beaten me, but I've always come back. And it's been great to get the opportunity of appearing in arenas such as Madison Square Garden.

**Q:** There, you renewed your rivalry with Randy Savage. Brought back some fond memories, didn't it?

**A:** No doubt! The "Macho Man," or, as we privately call him in the USWA, "Hank Williams Jr. Meets Haight-Ashbury." What ridiculous outfits! It's too bad I had to settle for a victory by DQ over him at the Garden, thanks to that attack by that pseudo-king Bret Hart. Randy gives me a hard time on the WWF telecasts, I give him a hard time in the ring, and have ever since the days he was in Memphis.

**Q:** I wanted to hold off talking about Bret Hart, but now that you mention him ...

**A:** A solid, talented wrestler to

be sure, but no more king than you. That's what got me upset about him specifically and the WWF as a whole. If they wanted to hold an eight-man tournament, fine, maybe call the winner the best non-champ in the WWF. After all, while those eight men were going at it, Hulk Hogan and Yokozuna were wrestling that night for a little thing called the WWF World title. So it wouldn't have made sense even if they had called the tournament "King Of The WWF." To label it "King Of The Ring"—well, that got me mad. That's why I wanted him to kiss my feet.

**Q:** Would you have demanded the same thing of Bam Bam Bigelow had he beaten Hart in the final? And would you have treated him and his camp the way you've treated the Hart family?

**A:** Unequivocally, yes. (*Smiles*) When you stop and think about it, there's not much difference between Luna Vachon and Helen Hart.

**Q:** Exactly how painful was Hart's three-minute sharpshooter at SummerSlam?

**A:** Very. And how could he do that to me after I entered on crutches?

**Q:** Well, [WWF President Jack] Tunney gave you no choice but to wrestle him.

**A:** And it all turned out right in the end. I win on reverse decision and become "King Of The WWF." Titan Tower must have been in shock for a week!

**Q:** Let me ask you about some other recent WWF foes. First, Giant Gonzales.

**A:** I'd like to say it was tough facing someone that tall, but if he played basketball the way he wrestled, he'd have a hard time being a second-string center for the Memphis State Tigers. Our Miss Texas would do well against him.

**Q:** You're not enamored with him.

**A:** He tries hard, give him credit for that.

**Q:** How about Tatanka?

**A:** Already I can hear the WWF publicity machine branding us in Memphis for booing (*mockingly*) "the unbeaten Native American." The fans didn't boo him for his background; Memphis has a very proud Native American tradition, going back to the Chickasaw tribe.



Once Lawler attacked Bret Hart after the "King Of The Ring" tournament, the feud was on. The "Hitman" challenged Lawler in USWA territory, and "The King" returned the favor at SummerSlam. Even Hart's family became fair game for Lawler's insults.

They were booing Tatanka for all sorts of rulebreaking tactics he had employed. McMahon and Joe Fowler will never mention *that*.

**Q:** What about Tatanka as an opponent?

**A:** He had a break or two, some by his own dirty work, and won the first time. I got even in that tag match a week later, and regained my beloved title.

**Q:** You've had a reputation for dirty work like fireballing.

**A:** What are you talking about?

**Q:** Forget it. And as for Shango?

**A:** (*Shrugs shoulders*) It wasn't voodoo, just something in the air. Remember, not too long afterward, The Kid beat Razor Ramon and Marty Jannetty upset Shawn Michaels. I'm not much for this astrology stuff, but I guess the stars and moon had an unusual alignment that month.

**Q:** You've faced many of the all-time greats over the years—

**A:** And beaten them.

**Q:** Yes, people like Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, Kerry Von Erich.

**A:** Some of my proudest moments in the ring.

**Q:** Yet many discount those victories, since most of them were in Memphis.

**A:** Is that my fault? Suppose I had beaten Hogan in New York, or Flair in Charlotte. Imagine the embarrassment that would have given their ignorant fans, people who only know of me from my match with Andy Kaufman. No wonder they never wanted to face me on their turf. They had images to uphold!

**Q:** Let's ignore the WWF for a

second and talk a little bit about the USWA.

**A: Fine with me.**

**Q:** You're a 17-time champion after beating Tatanka. Whose title record are you aiming for—the New York Yankees or Montreal Canadiens?

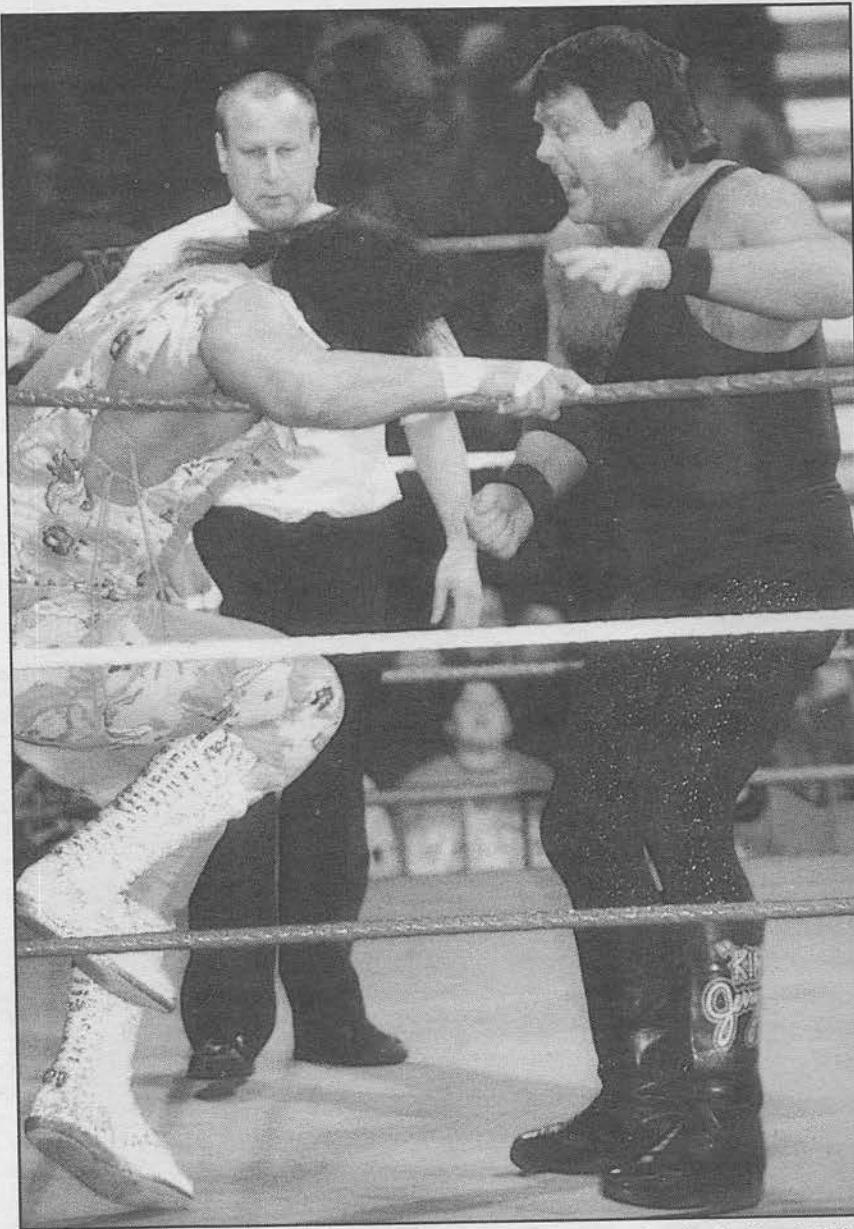
**A:** Mine! Perhaps you had forgotten, but I was Southern champion 31 times in the days before USWA. So I have a long way to go.

**Q:** You could read that performance either way. In order to win a belt 31 times, you have to give it up 30 times.

**A:** Naturally, I always like to look at the glass as half-full (*laughs*). Seriously, it means I don't duck anybody. They want to wrestle me, fine. At times I take my lumps, but more often I give them right back. That's what being "King" is all about.

**Q:** You've become as much a Memphis tradition as Sun Records, or Graceland, or that new Pyramid arena.

**A:** Thanks for the compliment. I was going to say "I love this place," but that would conjure up all those "Burger King" insults. Bret thought he was so clever! But getting back to Memphis, I enjoy the way the fans treat me and my friends in the USWA. Every town's fans should be as supportive. I know people talk about Atlanta and Charlotte and New York and Philly, but in my opinion Memphis and the other USWA venues comprise the top wrestling area in the country. They're sophisticated about the sport and know good wrestling when they see it. Not just



A decade ago, Lawler and Randy Savage had many vicious battles in the old Mid-Southern area. They renewed their rivalry in New York several months ago, with "The King" winning the Madison Square Garden match by disqualification.

me, but Jeff Jarrett and Jeff Gaylord, even rulebreakers like Brian Christopher. We don't have huge guys in the USWA, the Yokozunas or the Big Van Vaders, but I would say pound-for-pound, we have the best wrestlers anywhere.

**Q:** You've been around for a while. How do you keep it up?

**A:** It's a two-way process, really. I wrestle hard, keep

learning from every match. I feed on the fans' involvement, pro or con. That enthusiasm keeps me going and will for years to come.

**Q:** Any further goals?

**A:** To uphold the reputation of Memphis and USWA wrestling, especially among the ignorant WWF multitudes in the Northeast and elsewhere. It's a challenge, but we're making progress.

# RAY

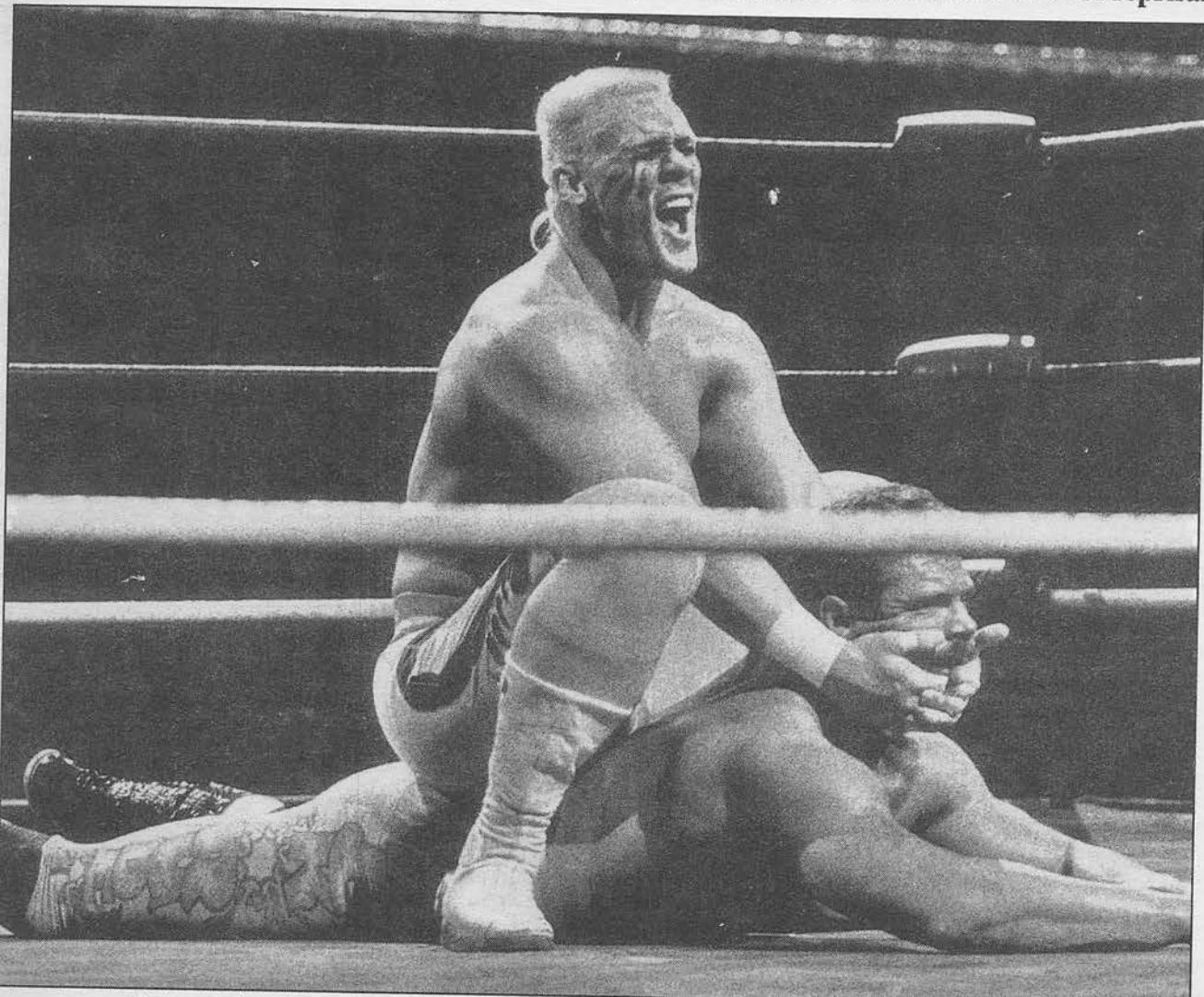
THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



## STING

Each month

THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts  
will offer their candid opinions of one  
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming  
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,  
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Sting wrenches the neck of Rick Rude. The "Stinger" has split his time between tag team and solo action of late. Some experts suggest he pursue a world title in earnest at this point in his career.



### CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"A real classy guy, that 'Stinger.' This man has energy and enthusiasm I've never seen before in wrestling. When he comes into an arena, wow, the whole place comes alive. And it doesn't stop there. When he gets into the ring he's all business. He's strong, he can move, and he knows how to use the fans to his advantage. I don't care what he does from here on out, I already consider him one of the all-time greats. He's a credit to our sport, brother."

*Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unprecedented 16 WWF World tag team titles.*



### KILLER KOWALSKI

"I still think Sting was at his best when he was a rulebreaker early in his career. But I'm not going to lie and say he isn't a very talented athlete. I think somewhere along the line he began to believe his own press clippings. He has this idea that he's a god in wrestling, and believes it's up to him to get rid of the bad guys. He's headed in the wrong direction. Big Van Vader dominated him in most of their more recent matches. Sting's time in the sun is about over."

*Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rule-breakers in wrestling history, runs an instructional school in Reading, Massachusetts.*



### DORY FUNK JR.

"The time has come in his career for Sting to decide what his goals are. He's still a relatively young man with good years ahead of him. But let's face it: Sting's been on top for a long time. That means he's wrestled against the best and taken a tremendous amount of punishment. Maybe that's why he's been teaming with Davey Boy Smith quite a bit, taking a break from the rigors of solo wrestling. Now's the time for him to go after the WCW World title again."

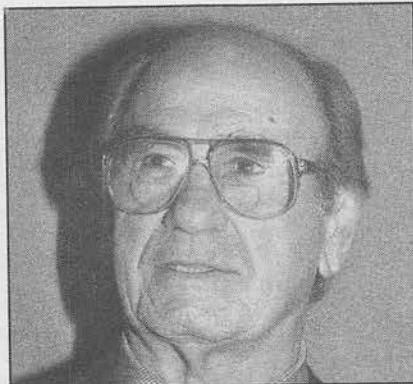
*Dory Funk Jr. held the NWA World title from 1969 to 1973. He is semi-retired from active competition.*



### NICK BOCKWINKEL

"A lot of people are giving up on Sting too early. They say he tries to do too much, that he has spent too many years in too many wars with men like The Four Horsemen and Big Van Vader. Well, every once in a while a great wrestler comes along and he'll just make you shake your head. I think Sting is someone who can take beating after beating and still remain in top form. He could easily be the wrestler of the '90s and beyond. He's that committed to his sport."

*Nick Bockwinkel is a four-time AWA champion. He makes appearances as guest commentator for independent federations.*



### LOU THESZ

"Enough of the tag teaming with Davey Boy Smith, Dustin Rhodes, and the others. Sting's reached a point in his career where he ought to think about himself a bit more. No, I'm not advising him to turn rulebreaker or abandon his friends, but just to be a little more selfish. He's getting toward the end of his prime, and he may have lost a step. To be remembered as one of wrestling's all-time greats, he should go after more world solo titles."

*Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous career. Many consider him the greatest all-around wrestler in history.*



### GORDON SOLIE

"It's rare to find a man who shows so much class both inside and outside the ring. Sting does. Fans don't realize how demanding a wrestler's life is. Besides matches, there are TV tapings, interviews, training, travel. The list goes on. But if Sting is worn down from it all, he's never shown that to me. And he always loves talking to kids and doing charity work. All that and he's still one of the world's finest athletes. A true professional, indeed."

*Gordon Solie, often called "The Walter Cronkite Of Professional Wrestling," has expertly analyzed the sport since 1959.*

**Stan Hansen & Terry Funk vs.  
Abdullah The Butcher & Kevin Sullivan**

# A CENTURY OF CARNAGE!

**They are four of professional wrestling's most feared competitors, representing what is bad about this sport. On one hot night in Philadelphia, they all met in one ring, proving why they deserve to be called the worst!**

By Andy Rodriguez

**R**EAD THE ROLL call of shame.

**Stan Hansen:** The bad man from Borger, Texas. The definition of ornery, the man who broke Bruno Sammartino's neck.

**Terry Funk:** Hansen's fellow Texan. The second-generation sadist, the man who nearly suffocated Ric Flair with a plastic bag.

**Abdullah the Butcher:** Sudan's least favorite son. The ultimate madman, the man who enjoyed running tracks of barbed wire over Carlos Colon's face.

**Kevin Sullivan:** The Boston bad boy. A devotee of the "dark side," the man who bashed Brian Lee in the head with a foot-long metal spike 44 times.

What a crew. Combined, they have 104 years of experience. They are all great wrestlers when they want to be. Yet among them, despite all that experience, only

"Blood" was the key word at Philadelphia's ECW arena during the recent match involving four of wrestling's most violent stars. Terry Funk wraps a chair around the neck of Abdullah the Butcher ...





*Photos by Jason Ross Lavin*

... while Stan Hansen tortures Boston madman Kevin Sullivan. The crowd loved it. "Let the wrestling purists debate the wisdom of this," ECW head Tod Gordon said. "Our fans want action, and that's what they'll get."

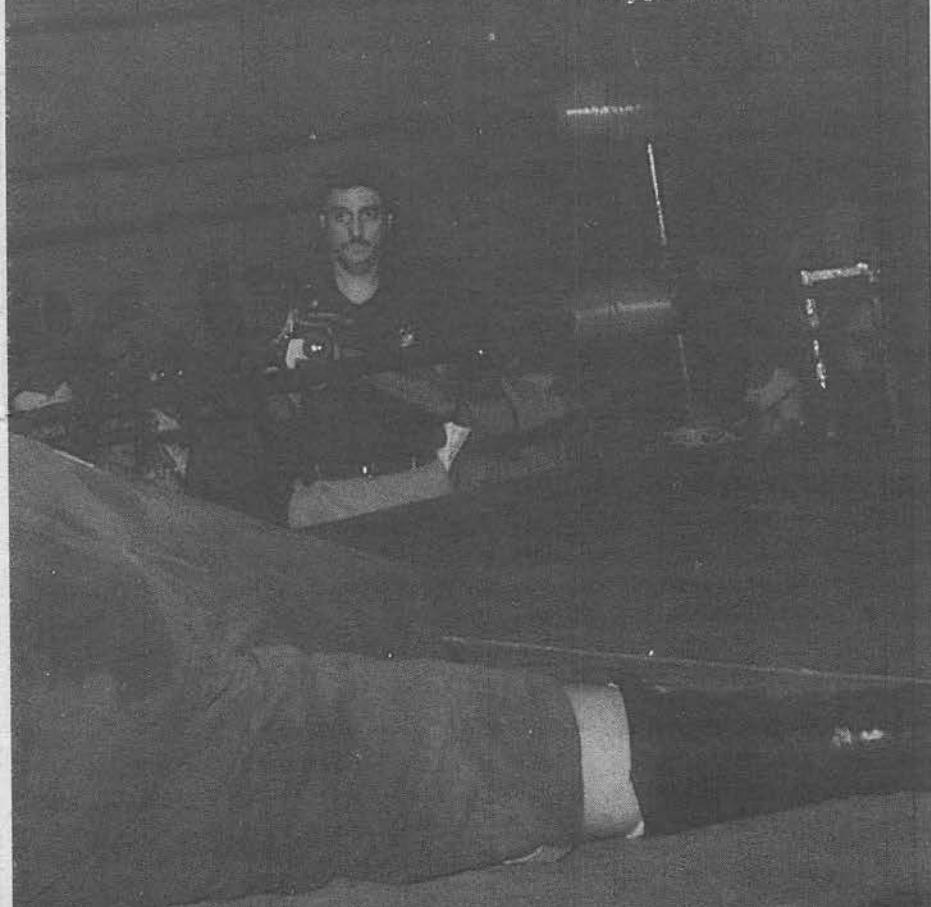
Funk has won a world title.

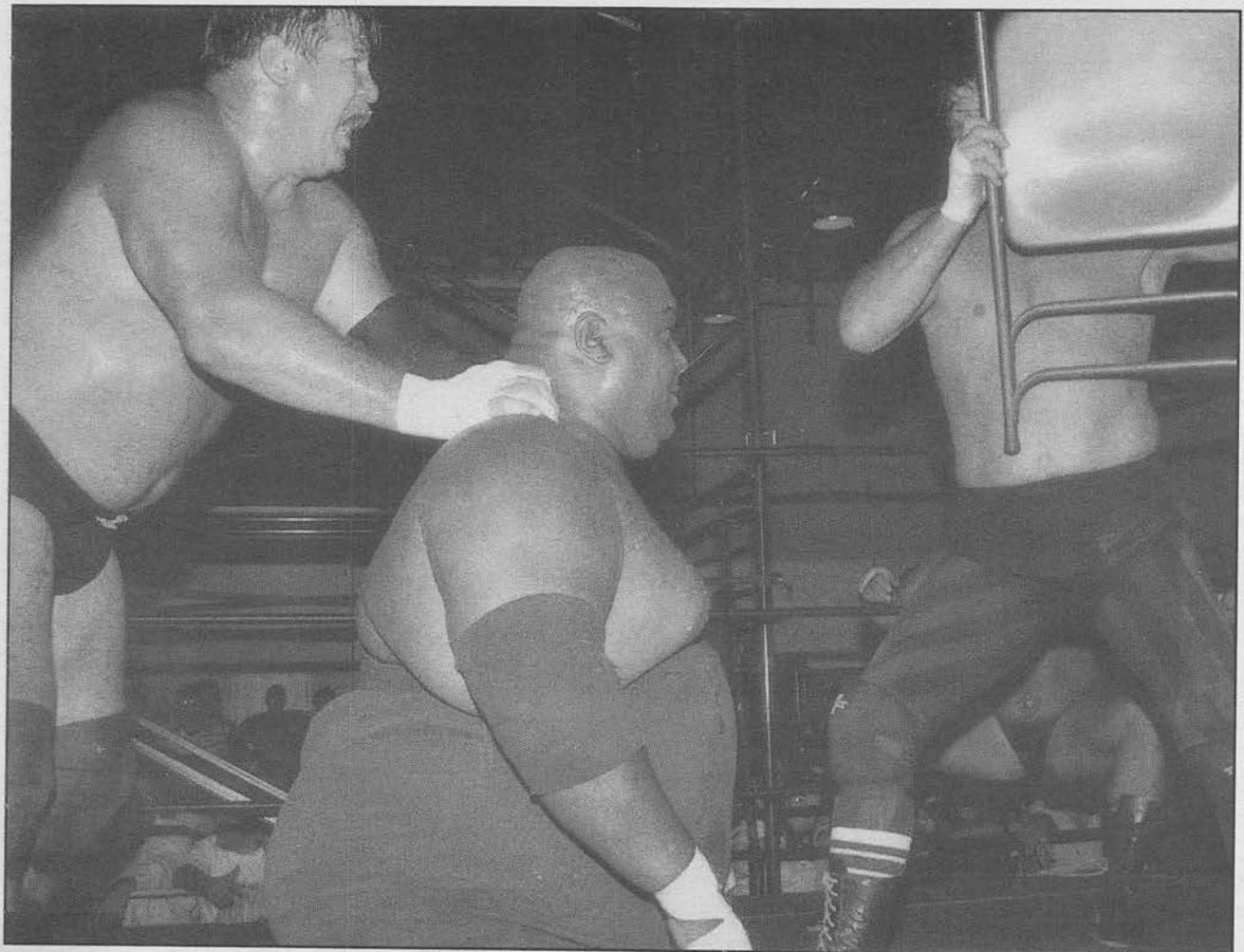
No, what they specialize in is rulebreaking. They enjoy creating mayhem, violence, and just plain trouble. This is who they are. Don't expect them to change. Those who did paid a high price.

It would be bad enough to see all four of them in the same federation, worse if they all wrestled on the same card. But all in the same match? Who would promote this horror?

Eastern Championship Wrestling would.

"We're giving the fans what they want," said ECW president Tod Gordon. "We are very fortunate to have gotten Hansen, Funk, Abdullah, and Sullivan all together in one place. Let the





Abdullah sees what's coming, and knows there's absolutely nothing he can do about it. Hansen holds onto the Butcher, while Funk prepares to slam him with a metal chair.

wrestling purists debate the wisdom of this; our fans want action and that's what they'll get."

ECW's fans got plenty of action from this bunch. The teams on this occasion were fellow Texans Hansen and Funk against Abdullah and Sullivan. It could have been any combination of the four. There are no great loyalties among them. They are not looking for friends or alliances. They are looking to do the most amount of damage in the easiest possible way.

The contest officially was designated a bunkhouse match. They may as well not have even given it a name, because what do you call a display of carnage that has very little to do with the sport of wrestling?

From the start, it was evident that none of these men was interested in displaying their scientific ability. They intended to brawl their way to victory, as quickly and brutally as possible.

"I knew right from the beginning," said one loyal ECW devotee, "that this was going to be one wild affair, even by ECW standards. Truthfully, I have to confess, I was glad to be there for it."

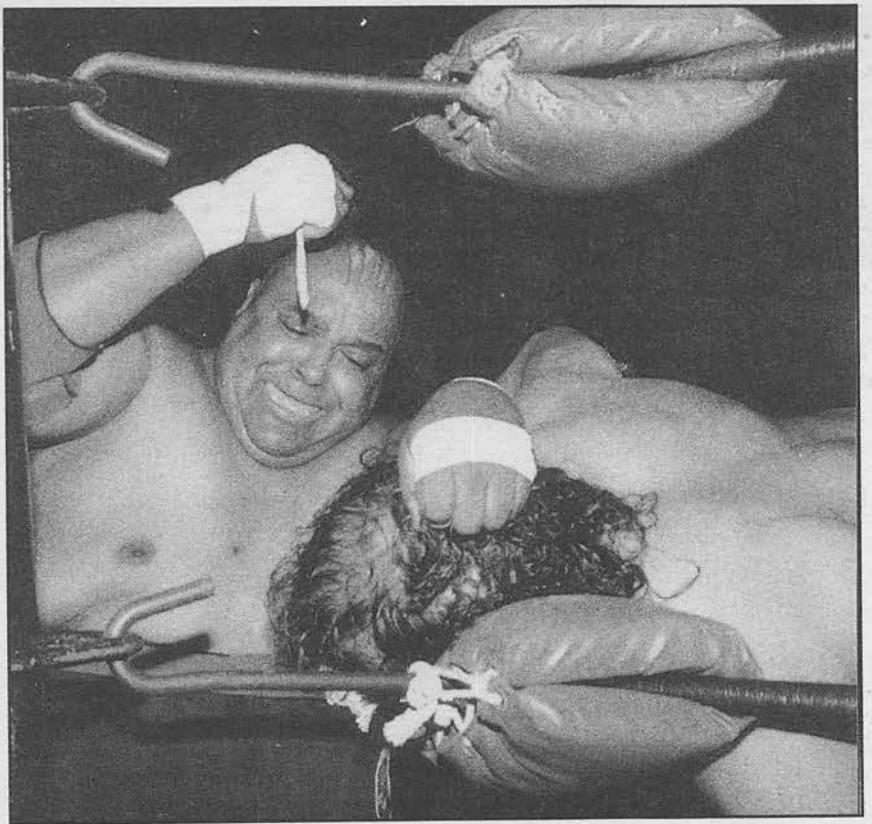
Eddie Gilbert also was glad to be there. "Hot Stuff," himself one of the nastier brawlers in the game, is no friend to any of the combatants, but virtually idolizes them for the violence they have wreaked.

"No doubt about it: Hansen, Funk, Abdullah, and Sullivan are legends in my book," Gilbert

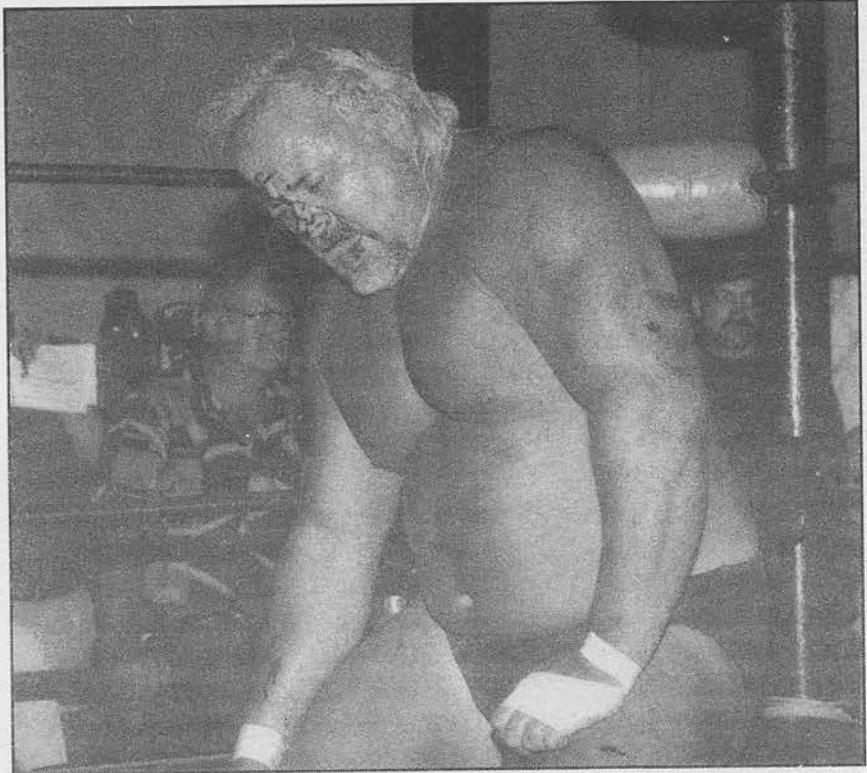
gushed. "They're great, man. Say what you will about them, but they've all had the guts to do things their way and damn the consequences. That ticks off a lot of so-called important people, and maybe that hurts their title chances. But they can hack that. That's why they're the best."

Gilbert did not confine that admiration to his words. He decided to pay tribute to the principals in a most unusual way, by interfering in the match. His wrath, however, was not directed at any one person. He was happy to get in the ring and beat up on all of them!

"Heck, that's what those guys are all about," he said. "I believed it was entirely appropriate to get involved. I mean, they all would



Abdullah got his revenge soon afterward, as he gets ready to spike the defenseless Funk, whose head is pinned against the bottom turnbuckle. Sadists (or masochists) would have loved this match.



Hey, Kevin, how does it feel? The bloodthirsty Mr. Sullivan, who normally dishes out rather than takes punishment, finds himself on the receiving end this time. That's a price anyone should expect to pay when in the same ring with Abdullah, Funk, and Hansen, especially on an ECW card.

have done the same thing. I wanted to get in on the fun. That's the kind of wrestling I enjoy. I couldn't just sit on the sidelines and watch."

There was more in this contest than the kind of all-out brawling that Gilbert enjoys. There was blood, lots of it. Hansen was the only one of the four who did not get cut open, but Funk, Abdullah, and Sullivan shed plenty of red. Disgusting, but appropriate.

"I knew I'd get cut tonight," said Funk, "but that's all a part of it. Any man who fights Abdullah the Butcher and thinks he'll escape without a wound is a damned fool. How Hansen did it is beyond me."

All that blood and violence made for one of the most engrossing matches of the year. By the time it was through, few cared about who had won or lost. It really didn't matter that Gilbert's interference had given Hansen and Funk the victory by disqualification. What mattered was that such a match had even taken place.

"This really was a spectacle, and most of the fans certainly enjoyed it," Gordon said. "But would I do it again? I'm not too sure about that. Any one of these guys could have been seriously injured tonight. Because I'm the man who got them all together, I would have felt some responsibility if something horrible had happened. On the other hand, what happened tonight was bad enough."

"Aww, Gordon is just being a hypocrite," said Johnny Hot Body, who also interfered in the match. "He knows he would do it again. If these guys demanded a rematch, Gordon would sign it in two seconds because it would make a lot of dough for him. Look, you can't stop madmen like Hansen and Funk from going at it. You can't stop monsters like Abdullah and Sullivan. Why even try? Just let them get it on."

Sadly, the carnage continues. □

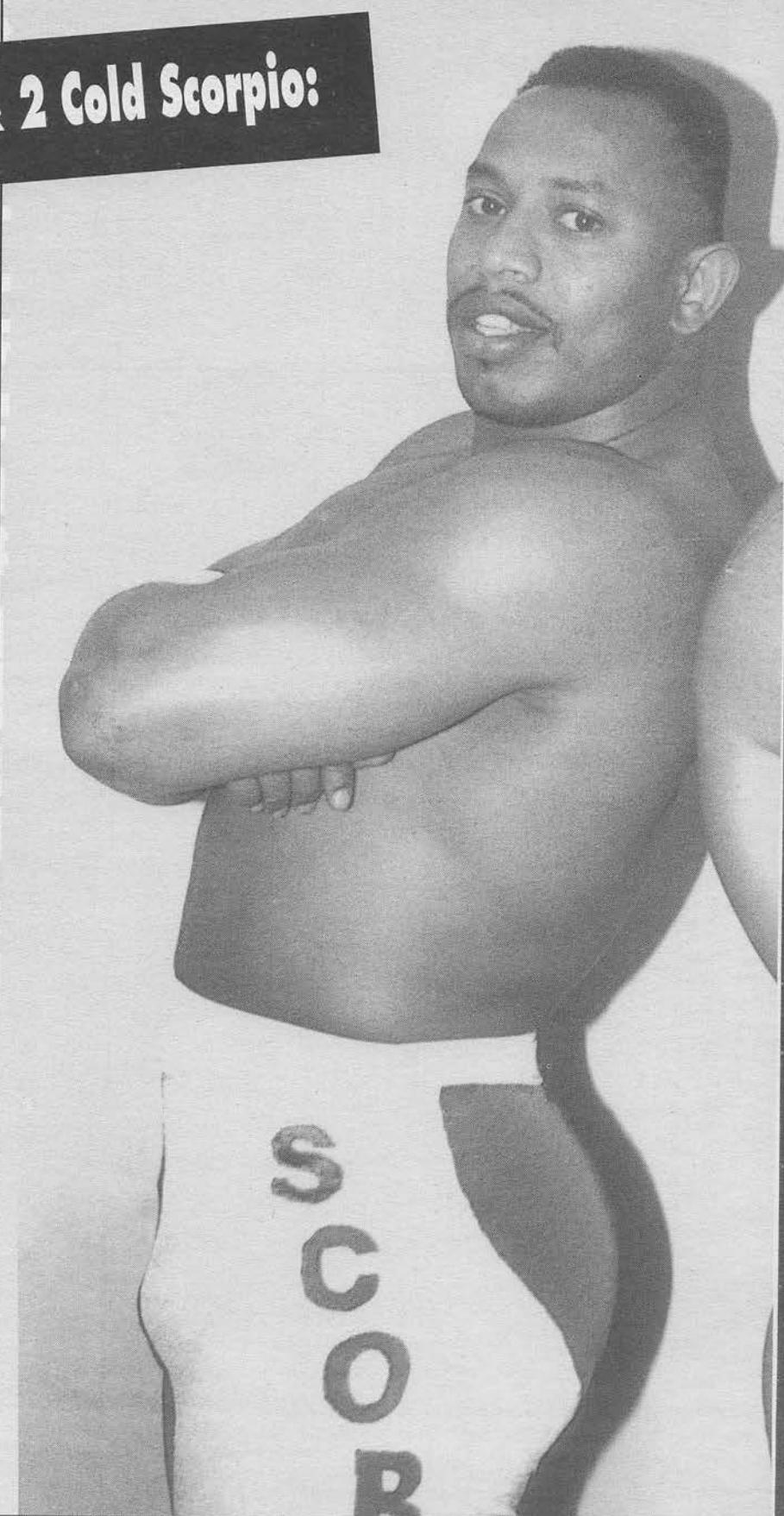
# Marcus Bagwell & 2 Cold Scorpio:

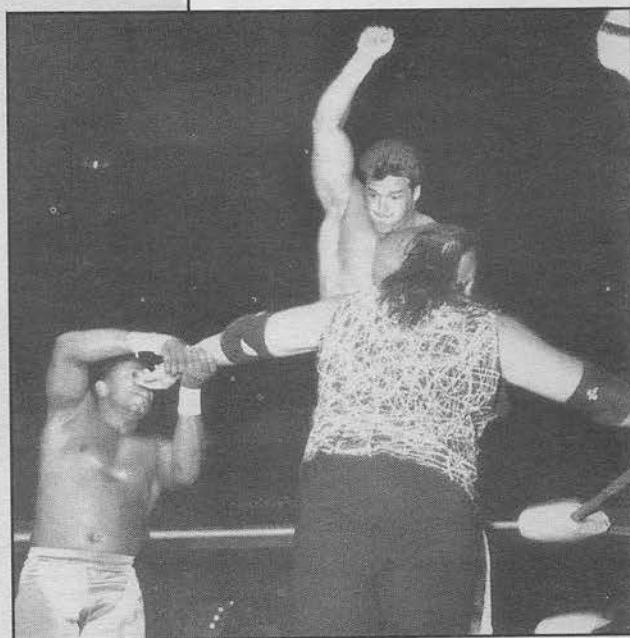
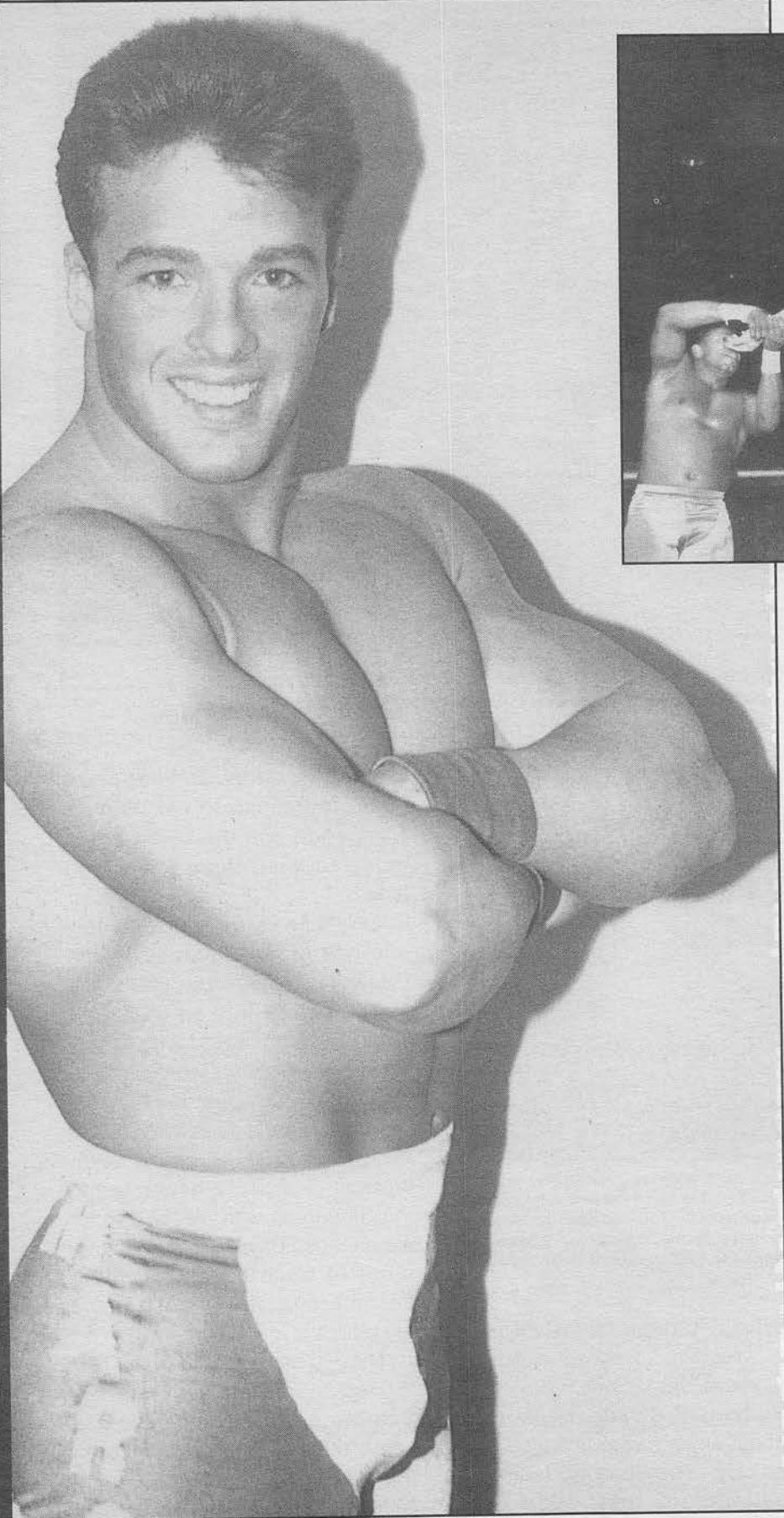
## THE GREATEST TAG TEAM THAT NO ONE RESPECTED

Marcus Alexander Bagwell and 2 Cold Scorpio should have been upset by their lack of WCW tag team title matches. But their patience and focus eventually paid off in belts

By Chris Bernucca

**2**COLD SCORPIO stood at the mouth of the runway of the Astroarena in Houston, watching the Fall Brawl tag team title match. Although his bout was over, there was something else on the card





2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell administer a pounding to Jerry Sags of The Nasty Boys. While the Nastys later captured the WCW tag title, Scorpio and Bagwell patiently waited for their time to shine. It paid off.

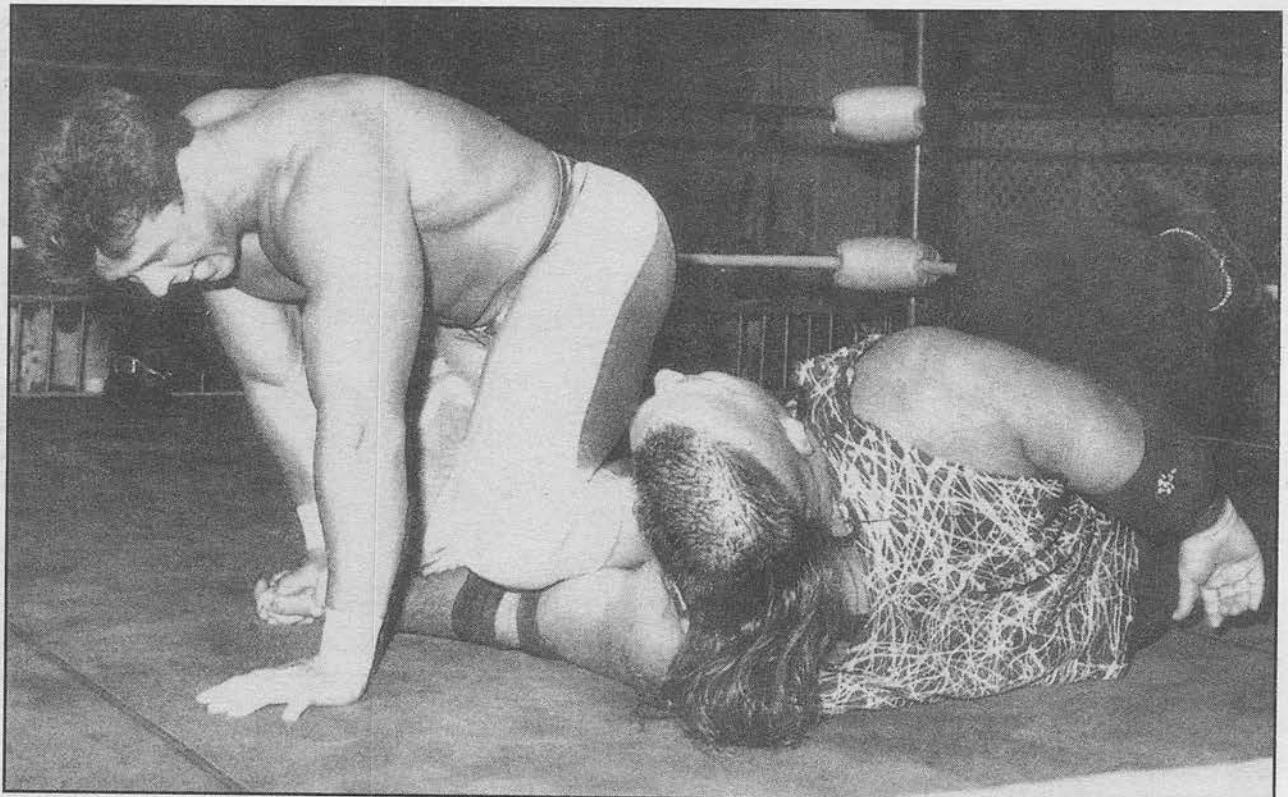
that kept his interest.

Scorpio, still wearing his bright pink tights and with a towel slung around his neck, zeroed in on the bout between WCW newcomers The Nasty Boys and tag team champions Arn Anderson and Paul Roma. He watched Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags take turns administering a terrible beating to Anderson and shook his head.

When a reporter approached and asked a question, Scorpio acted as if the scribe was not there.

"After this match," he said, his eyes remaining firmly fixed on the action in the ring.

Anderson managed to tag out to Roma, who fought off Knobs and Sags before being double-teamed. The handicap was too much for Roma to handle and the Nastys pinned him to win the tag team belts. Scorpio turned and headed for the locker room as the reporter approached again.



Bagwell is muscular, but relatively small by world-class standards. Nevertheless, he provides the perfect complement to Scorpio's aerial acrobatics.

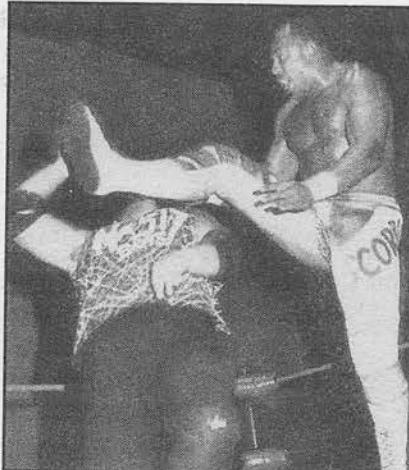
"Just doing a little homework," Scorpio said when asked what he'd been doing. "In this sport, you've always got to do your homework."

He moved into the locker room, headed for the shower. In the locker room, Marcus Alexander Bagwell was changing into street clothes. He winked at Scorpio as he went by. A crowd of reporters had gathered around his locker and one mentioned the outcome of the tag team title match.

"Really?" Bagwell answered. "That surprises me. I thought Anderson and Roma would be able to hold 'em off. It doesn't matter, though. They won't be champs for long."

When another reporter asked Bagwell how he could be so sure of that, the youngster stopped dressing and turned toward the reporter.

"Because instant success is



Scorpio was unimpressed with the Nastys' title win over Arn Anderson and Paul Roma. "Looked like the same old Nastys to me," said the spectacular aerialist. He turned out to be right.

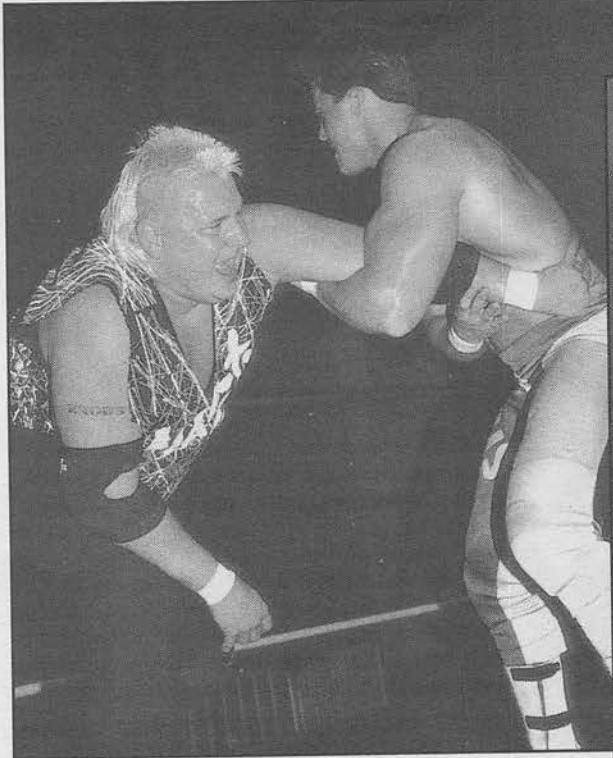
usually followed by instant failure in wrestling," Bagwell explained. "Look at Sid Vicious. Look at The Hollywood Blonds. Look at just about anyone who has won a title quickly. They end up losing the belt before they even get a

chance to enjoy it. That's not going to happen to us. When 2 Cold and I win the belts, we're going to keep them for a long time."

Only time can validate the second half of his claim. However, Bagwell and Scorpio made the first half come true on October 4 when they unseated The Nasty Boys in Columbus, Georgia.

Bagwell had spent the last two years paying his dues in WCW. At the end of 1992, he began teaming with Scorpio, a newcomer to the federation with plenty of prior experience. They made a commitment to each other and have become one of the most stable tag teams in any federation.

They've become one of the better tag teams as well. Slowly, Scorpio and Bagwell began to climb the WCW tag team rankings. And they had beaten the Nastys in an earlier bout, so they



Bagwell and Sags go at it during a recent match. Scorpio and Bagwell defeated the Nastys earlier in 1993, and that gave them confidence when they met again.

had the requisite confidence.

"Bagwell and Scorpio?!" exclaimed Knobs before losing the title. "Those guys couldn't beat eggs! There were no belts on the line when we lost to them. We were just sizing them up. Let's see how they do against us now that they'll be wrestling the tag team champions."

That was the problem Bagwell and Scorpio had encountered since uniting—a lack of respect. Neither is more than six feet tall or 240 pounds, nor have they won the singles titles that provide instant credibility. Most observers didn't consider them serious contenders for the title.

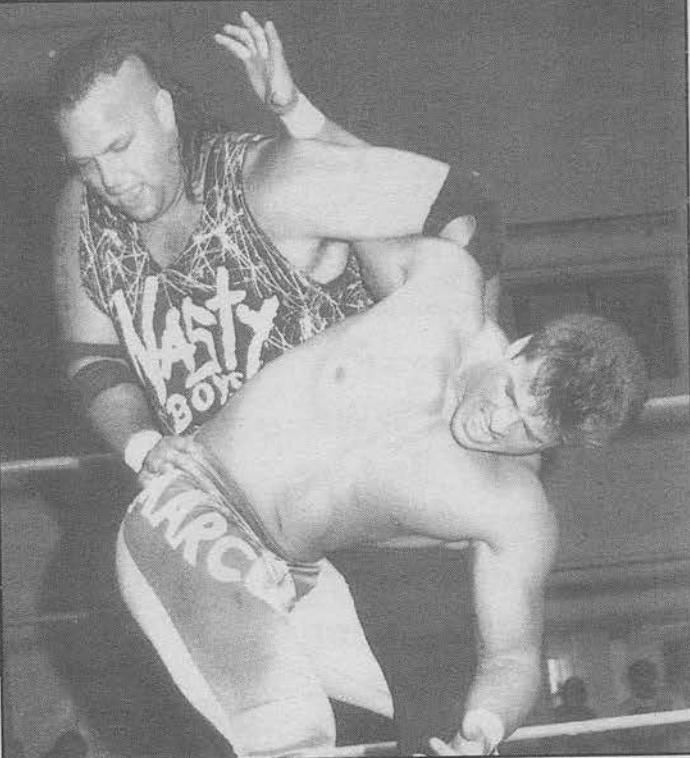
While so-called awesome tag teams have come and gone, Bagwell and Scorpio continued to work hard both in and out of the ring. The flashy, acrobatic duo saw teams such as Big Van Vader and Sid Vicious, The Colossal

Kongs, and Anderson and Roma not live up to expectations. Scorpio had an explanation for that.

"Guys like Vicious and Vader are singles wrestlers that have gotten by on physical skill their entire careers, so you're not going to get them to change," he said. "They don't understand that you've got to be in synch. You can't be showboatin' out there. One plus one doesn't always equal two, you know what I'm sayin'?"

Conversely, Bagwell and Scorpio exceed the sum of their parts. They knew they had the potential to be something special after just a handful of matches together. But they also knew it would take time and determination to make it to the top, and that time finally came on October 4. They used every edge they could get against the Nastys.

Before becoming champ, Bagwell said he and Scorpio would not be overwhelmed by the honor. "When 2 Cold and me win the belts," he said, "we're going to keep them for a long time."



"That's why I was watching their match," Scorpio said. "I wanted to see if there was anything new from them we have to watch for. I'm not gonna give away any secrets, but I didn't see nothing spectacular. It looked like the same old Nastys to me."

He zipped up his travel bag and now was waiting for Bagwell, who was still fielding questions from reporters.

"We know we don't get the respect from the matchmakers that we deserve, but we don't let it get to us," Bagwell said. "We've dedicated ourselves to winning the tag team title, so when we get the shot, we're going to make the most of it. And when we win the title, the matchmakers and the other wrestlers will have no choice. They'll have to respect us, because we earned it."

They've earned the title, and the respect that goes with it. □

# Roasted, Broiled, Fried, Or Baked

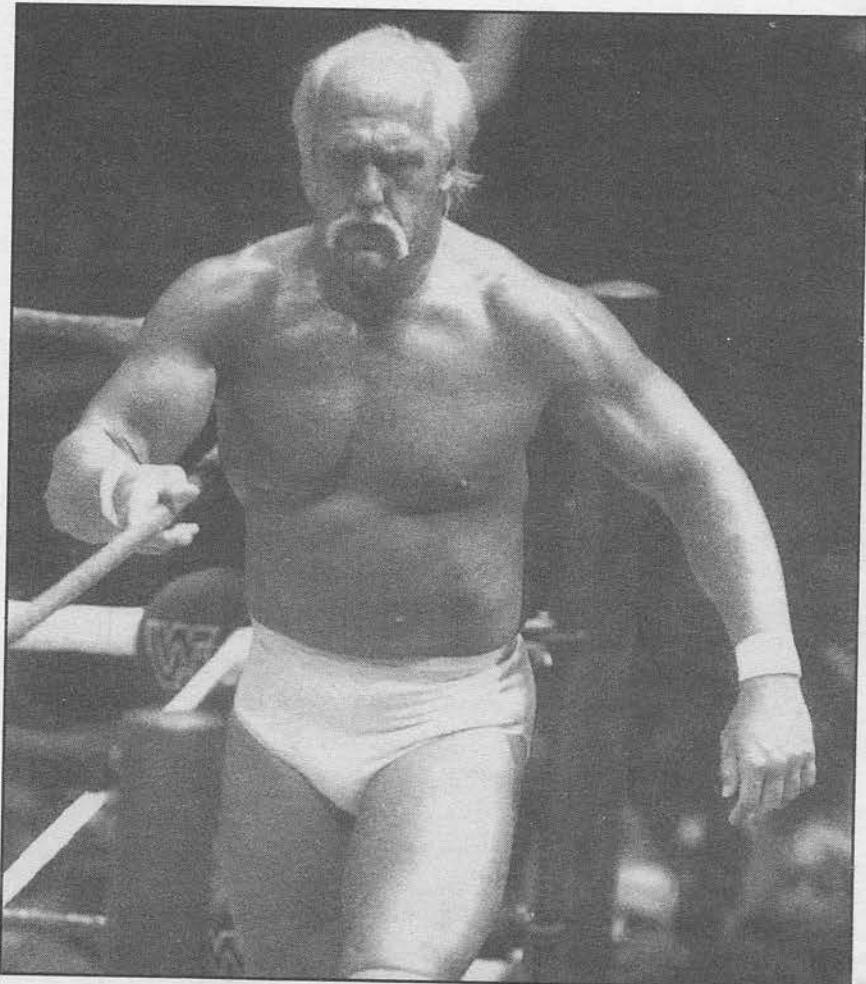
Why isn't Hogan pursuing the WWF World title? Has he lost his nerve? Fans around the world are debating these questions, and the answers they're coming up with hardly make a hero of the "Hulkster"

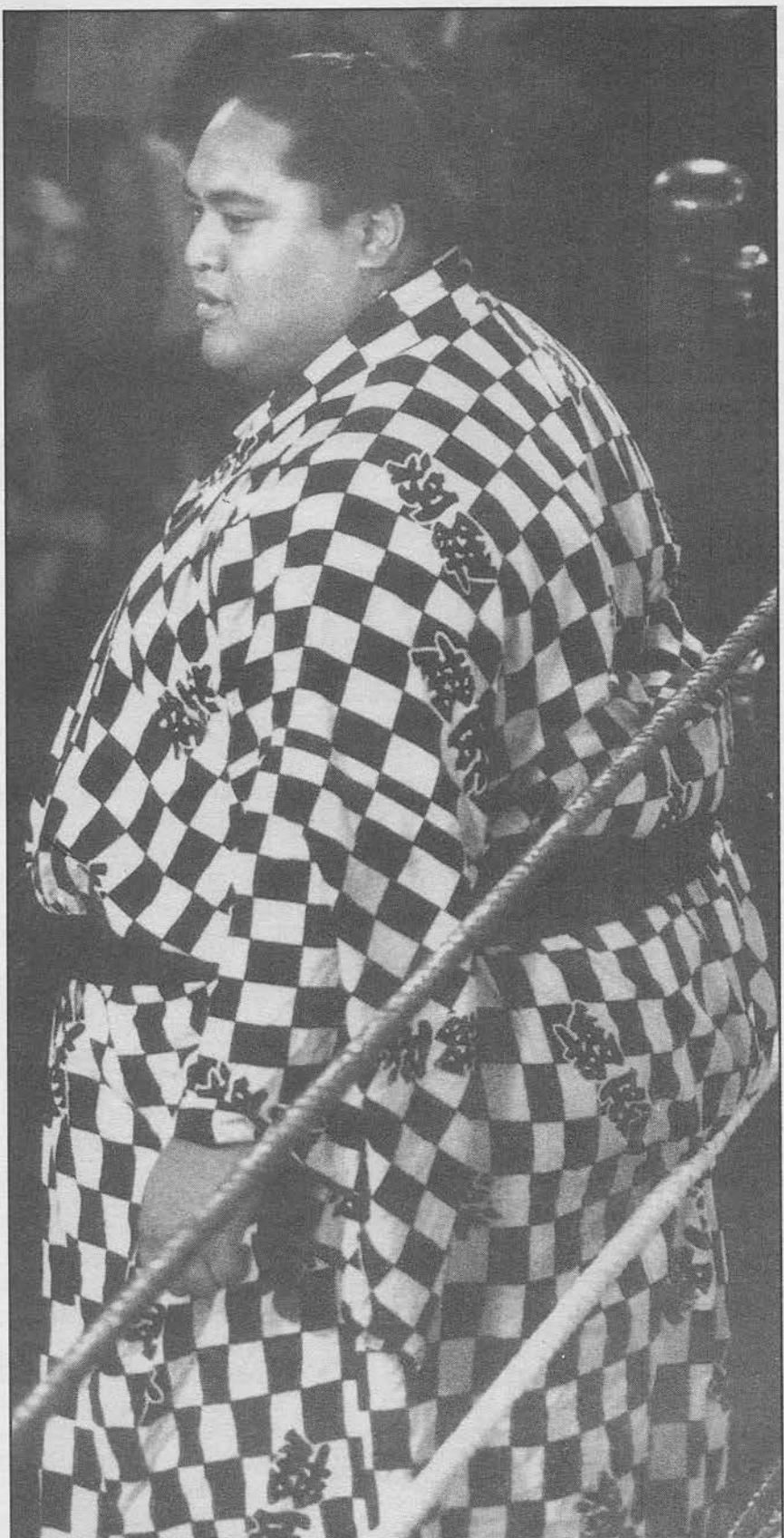
By Andy Rodriguez

FIVE YEARS AGO, it would have taken a lot of guts to call Hulk Hogan a chicken. He was between WWF World title reigns at the time, but to thousands of loyal "Hulkamaniacs," it didn't matter if their hero didn't hold the belt. He was fighting the good fight. That's all that mattered. Even his enemies acknowledged that his lack of a title didn't dampen his fighting spirit.

Today, as then, Hogan is not WWF World champion. The situation, however, has changed dramatically. The "Hulkster" shows little interest in regaining the World title. In fact, he shows little interest in pursuing anything in the sport.

# ANY WAY YOU COOK IT, HULK HOGAN'S A CHICKEN!





Years ago, Hulk Hogan (left) was not afraid of anyone or any challenge. But since he lost the WWF World title to Yokozuna (above), he's made no effort to re-target the Samoan. His fans are wondering what happened to his courage.

He remains one of the most popular wrestlers in the world, but those same fans who supported him so vigorously five years ago wonder today where their hero has gone.

Still, is it possible to call Hulk Hogan a chicken?

Well, yes.

"As far as I'm concerned," said a fan from Canada, "his first order of business should be winning that World title back from Yokozuna. If he's not doing that, he deserves all that scorn."

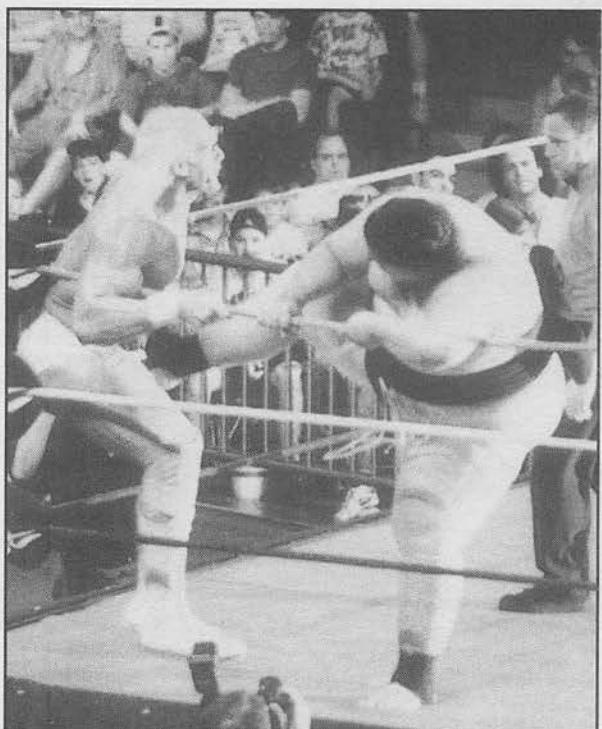
There is the biggest strike against Hogan, that he is not avenging himself on World champion Yokozuna. When he lost the championship to the sumo-loving behemoth in June in Dayton, Ohio, nearly everyone assumed Hogan would be hot for several rematches—rematches that would end only with reign number six.

At least, that's what everyone thought.

"When I saw Hulk that night he lost to Yokozuna," said one insider, "he had that same intensity he's always had, that eye of the tiger. It looked like a matter of weeks before he'd get the belt back. But he didn't, and as time went on I started to notice he seemed less interested in the title. It was really perplexing to me. It wasn't the Hogan I knew."

"I can't believe Hogan didn't go after Yokozuna," said former WWF competitor Ted DiBiase. "He should have been on him like a madman. I mean, let's be honest, Yoko completely embarrassed Hogan. He manhandled him, and how many people have done that to Hulk Hogan and gotten away with it? Now Yoko's getting away with it and Hogan looks bad."

The "Hulkster" and the "Million-Dollar Man" may be longtime rivals, but they have much in common. Both have parlayed their international reputations into lucrative overseas matches. This



Hulk Hogan made his famed dramatic ring entrance as WWF World champion on the night of June 13 (above left). He would leave an ex-champ after losing to sumo warrior Yokozuna (above right), and since has shown little interest in regaining his title.

summer, Hogan toured with the WWF in Europe and recently has been active with and against The Great Muta in Japan. Only days after losing to the formidable Razor Ramon at SummerSlam '93, DiBiase teamed with Stan Hansen to win the PWF and All-Japan tag team titles.

The difference? DiBiase still occasionally wrestles on U.S. independent cards. Hogan hasn't wrestled in the States since July, and seems more interested in making movies like *Mr. Nanny* or his prospective syndicated action-adventure series, *Thunder In Paradise*.

Certainly Hogan cares little if an old foe like DiBiase believes he looks bad, but he should be concerned many of his supporters share that view. To them, if Hogan does not soon make a serious bid for the World title, he will damage his hard-worn reputation.



If Hogan is afraid of Yokozuna, scenes like this one against The Undertaker may be why. The current WWF champ has had relatively little trouble retaining his belt since defeating the "Hulkster" in June.

"If he lets Yokozuna have the last word," said THE WRESTLER's Bill Apter, "a lot of people will lose

respect for him. He had better realize that."

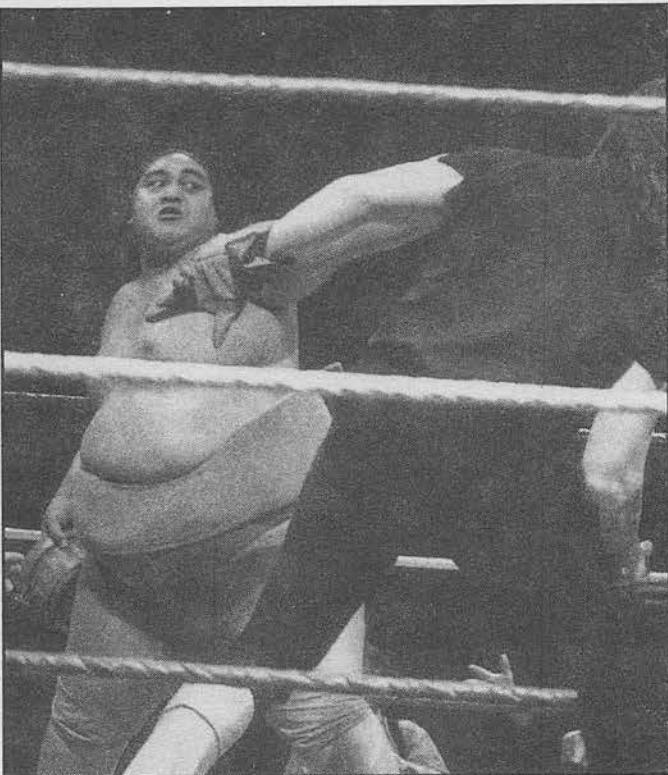
Perhaps Hogan simply isn't good enough to regain the belt.

"Hulk is no old man," said former rival Nick Bockwinkel, "but he's not a kid either. That little bit he's lost over the past few years could mean the difference between being a champion and being an also-ran."

Another former foe, Don Muraco, maintains neither skill nor age is a factor.

"He's still a great wrestler," Muraco said. "The skills are still there. No reason he can't physically beat Yokozuna. Honestly, how much better a wrestler is Yoko? Hey, the guy's a giant, but he has his weaknesses."

Others argue "Hulkamaniacs" may have to reconcile themselves that Hogan just doesn't want it



Now that Yokozuna seemingly has Hogan out of the way, he's running roughshod over the WWF. The sumo star is shown using a salt bucket to dominate the Undertaker.

Randy Savage can't successfully confront Yokozuna; neither can most WWF fan favorites. Now that Lex Luger failed in his one shot to unseat the champion, Hogan would seemingly be the only possible challenger left.



The bad news for North American fans is that Hogan generally restricts his wrestling these days to overseas venues such as Tokyo, where he beat The Great Muta in May.

that badly anymore.

"He has other goals in life that don't involve the ring," wrote one fan in his defense. "A TV or movie

career remains a definite possibility. Whether or not he wins the belt back, he'll be remembered as arguably the greatest champion of his era. That's undeniable."

Age, ability, Hollywood—they're all excuses. Hogan is not a chicken because he's getting old or because he wants to act. He's a chicken because he's afraid. Afraid of failure. Also afraid of Yokozuna.

"He looked bad once; he doesn't want to look bad again," said Greg Valentine, who has wrestled Hogan for the WWF belt. "For Hogan, what's worse than avoiding Yokozuna is actually having to face him. He'd rather be called a chicken than a loser. Don't take my word for it. Ask his friends."

We did, and a lot of them said the same thing.

"Let me preface this by saying that Hulk Hogan is a legend in my book," said one friend. "I'll always respect him. But let me tell you,

Yokozuna does spook him. He had never faced someone quite like that before and the experience was a jolt. Sure he beat him at WrestleMania, but that was kind of a fluke because the guy was unprepared. But at full strength, it was a different story. Maybe calling him a chicken is too strong, but he definitely seems to be avoiding Yokozuna. No question."

Those who love and respect Hogan do not enjoy calling him a coward. The man has given so much to the sport. To suggest that he's being motivated by fear of an opponent is almost to suggest the unthinkable. But as long as he keeps avoiding the World champion, the label of "chicken" will linger.

Of course, all Hogan has to do to shed that label is to pursue Yokozuna. A world full of fans is hoping he'll make the move. Even if he doesn't win back the title, he'll regain their trust.

And ours. □

A BELT  
MADE OF  
FOOL'S GOLD

# RUDE DEFEATS FLAIR TO BECOME CHAMPION . . . OF NOTHING

On September 19, Rick Rude defeated Ric Flair for the NWA title. Or so it seemed. WCW officials said the match was for "the World heavyweight title." But which one? Or was it for anything at all?

*"The fact is we attempted to go to court to prevent this match from becoming any type of title match at all. In the NWA's opinion, the public had the overwhelming conception that this was an NWA match for the NWA title. It was*

*not, flat out, it was not for the NWA World heavyweight championship."*

—ROBERT K. TROBICH OF THE LAW FIRM HOLCOMB & PETTIT, GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE





By Dave Rosenbaum

THE SCENARIO LEADING to the formation of World Championship Wrestling in 1991 was confusing even to the most astute fan. Suddenly, the NWA was gone, and in its place—apparently with many of the same wrestlers, same referees, same officials and announcers, and same arenas—was Ted Turner's WCW.

Ric Flair, the NWA World champion, became known as the WCW World champion. Flair was eventually stripped of the title after a contract dispute, and Lex Luger won the vacated belt by defeating Barry Windham. The NWA, meanwhile, ceased to exist. Or so it seemed.

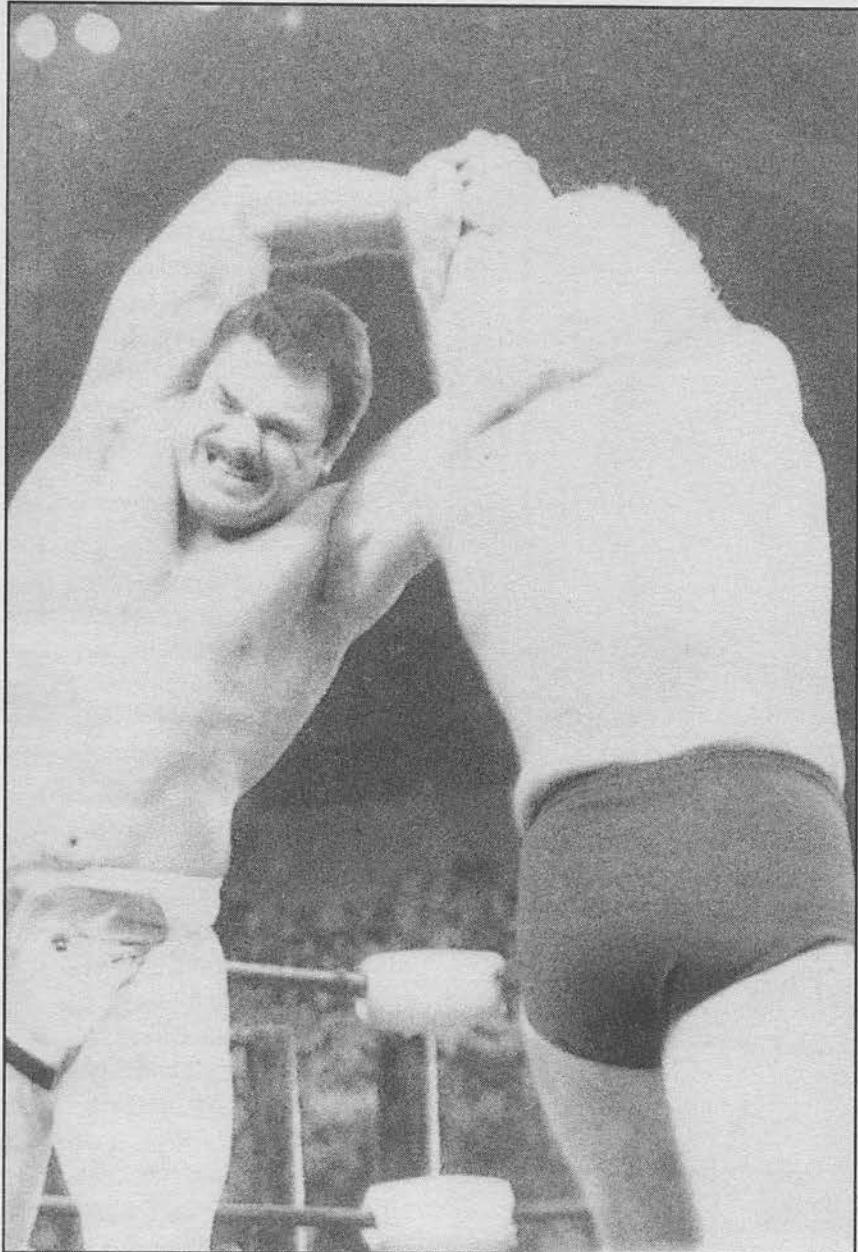
We now move ahead to August 12, 1992. WCW has reinstated the NWA title as a secondary belt. Masa Chono beats Rick Rude in a tournament final. Suddenly, the NWA lives. Or so it seems.

On July 18 in Biloxi, Mississippi, Ric Flair claimed his 10th World title after beating NWA champion Barry Windham. His World title claim was dubious, since the WCW belt effectively had direct lineage to the original NWA belt, and the "new" NWA title was the equal of the U.S. title, at best.

Leave it to lawyers to make this whole mess even more confusing. On September 19 at Fall Brawl, Rick Rude overcame a figure-four leglock and beat Flair for the NWA title (generically billed by



Rick Rude is interviewed by Eric Bischoff. But is Rude a champion? A legal dispute has put the NWA belt in limbo. Rude gave his all against Ric Flair, as shown by his expression as he headlocks the "Nature Boy" (far left), then tries mounting a counterattack (left), but some people wonder why.



Rude attempts to overpower Flair. Ironically, Rude was beaten by Masa Chono in a tournament final when the NWA title was filled in 1992. Given another chance, he has won, for all intents and purposes, a nonexistent championship.

WCW as the World heavyweight title). Or so it seemed.

The match *wasn't* for the NWA title because WCW doesn't have the rights to use the NWA name. The NWA still exists as a group of promoters who occasionally run cards in the U.S. and Japan, but they have had nothing to do with WCW since September, when WCW dropped its membership from the NWA.

In fact, NWA lawyers blocked

WCW from promoting the Fall Brawl Rude-Flair match as being for the NWA World title. Most WCW wrestlers realized the match wasn't for anything at all.

Flair couldn't defend the NWA title because he didn't have it.

Rude couldn't win the NWA title because it wasn't Flair's to lose.

WCW couldn't promote this match because it has no rights to the NWA title.

Confused?

It gets worse.

Rude was wrestling for nothing. That he gave 100-percent effort is admirable, but one has to wonder why he even bothered wrestling Flair when there was nothing to gain but pride and a counterfeit belt. He had to know what was going on.

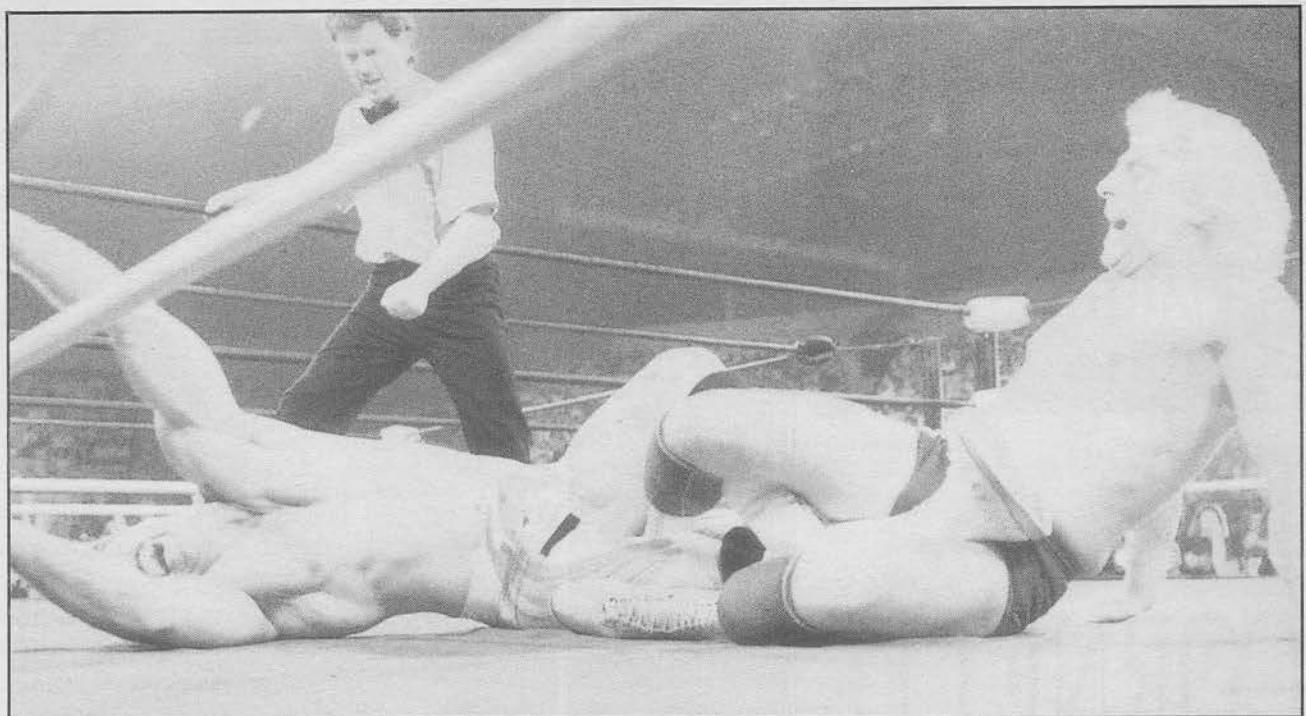
"Everyone did," said a WCW insider.

Rude refused to comment on the situation, as did all other WCW wrestlers. WCW officials have, as of press time, made but one comment on the situation:

"As of September 1, WCW elected not to renew its membership with the NWA," explained Mike Weber, director of communications for WCW. "Therefore, we have no right to use the NWA name or promote a title match as an NWA title match. Yet clearly, the Flair-Rude match was a championship-caliber match, and even before and after September 1, the belt itself—and the excellence it signifies—remains a part of WCW. So WCW elected to rename the title simply the world heavyweight title, and Rude currently holds that championship."

Meanwhile, Robert Trobich, the NWA's lawyer, said the following in the August 30 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly*:

"The WCW title does not have 'direct lineage' to the original NWA title, nor did the NWA 'become' WCW in 1991 ... The NWA title remained vacant until the tournament conducted in Japan in the summer of 1992, where Masa Chono became champion ... There is no 'old' NWA or 'new' NWA. The NWA has existed continually, and has continually recognized a championship, longer than any other wrestling organization in the world. Nothing has occurred that changed that."



Flair attempts to use his famed figure-four leglock (above), but this time it didn't work. Fifi rushed to his aid (below), but it was after he said *au revoir* to his title. Was the belt taken by Rude in the ring, or by lawyers in courts? Only time will tell.



When Flair was stripped of the WCW World title, the NWA did not strip him of the NWA World title. Not until later, when the NWA and Flair got caught up in a legal dispute, was title recognition taken away.

This legal mumbo jumbo explains why Flair didn't look so distraught when Rude walked

away with the belt. Flair no doubt realized the only real singles titles in WCW are the WCW World and the U.S. championships. If Rude realized that, he wasn't letting on. Naturally, WCW broadcasters didn't take time to let the fans in on the controversy. The fans reacted as if a national catastrophe had occurred.

A court will most likely settle this dispute, and it seems clear neither side is completely correct. In the eyes of most fans, the WCW World title does have lineage to the NWA World title, even if that lineage was temporarily disrupted.

The NWA title (which is not recognized as a *world* title by *THE WRESTLER* or its sister publications) had taken on a life of its own, free of administrative squabbles, and became, in essence, the WCW World title. That's not a legal issue. It's a matter of logic.

But for WCW to call one of its championships the NWA World title seems incorrect because it has no rights to the name NWA. In fact, the NWA plans to hold a tournament around the turn of the year to fill what in their eyes is the vacant NWA World title.

We're anxiously awaiting the outcome of this ugly dispute. Although world peace doesn't lie in the balance, we're interested to see where wrestling history has taken us.

And what Rude really won. □

**IMPEACHED BUT  
*STILL*  
IMPOSSIBLE**

# JIM CORNETTE REVEALS “WHY I RESIGNED AS SMOKEY MOUNTAIN COMMISSIONER”

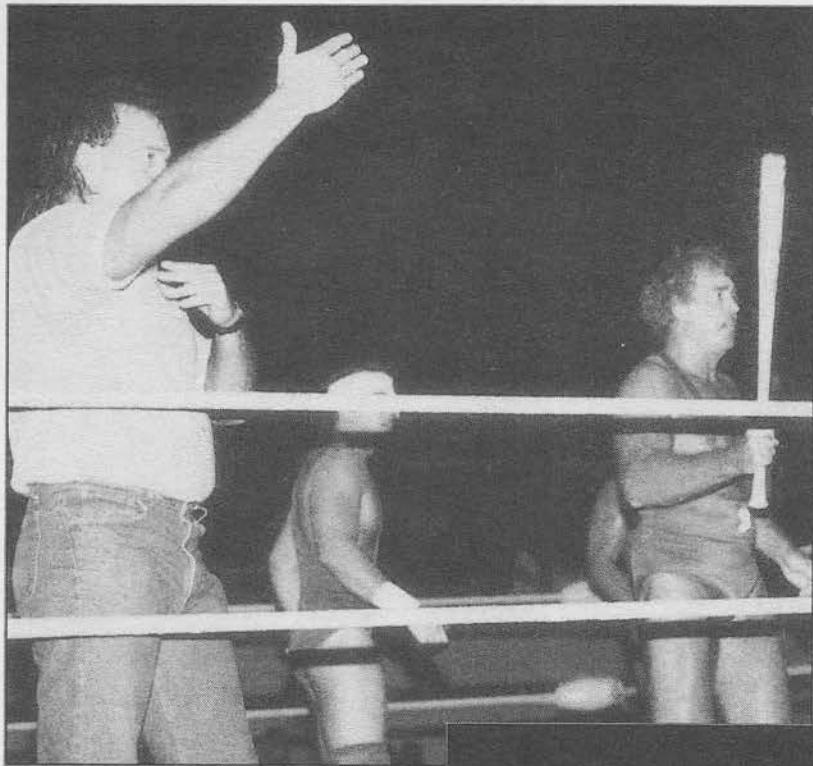
(Editor's Note: On September 12 in Knoxville, Tennessee, Terry Funk defeated Bob Armstrong, thus making Jim Cornette commissioner of Smoky Mountain Wrestling. If this sounds as if an inmate was running the asylum, you're right. Cornette made one-sided decisions favoring rulebreakers. He let Chris Candido wrestle Dark Secret in an obviously

fixed match. Cornette got rid of Armstrong, the former commissioner, by having The Black Ninja—actually, two of them—wrestle Armstrong in a loser-leave-SMW match. Finally, less than two weeks after taking the post, the SMW Board of Directors impeached Cornette. Of course, his version of what happened is somewhat different. Read on.)

**By Jim Cornette**

THEY DIDN'T FIRE me. I quit!! I tried to teach the Smoky Mountain Wrestling Board of Directors how to run a wrestling operation. I was getting things done. Those dimwits were finally going to have a federation they could be proud of, but they wouldn't listen.





Former Smoky Mountain Commissioner Bob Armstrong, flanked by Robert Gibson and Scott Armstrong, wielded a baseball bat in his fight to regain his position. Not only did he lose that battle, but was forced to leave the federation after losing to the Black Ninja.

They said I had to get the rule-breakers in line, so I took those no-good rulebreakers like The Rock 'n' Roll Express and the dirty, cheating Armstrong family and did something about them. I tried to fine them for acts of cowardice and deceit. There weren't going to be any miscreants in my federation!

But that didn't satisfy the board. They had to stick their nose where it didn't belong. They gave me a mandate, I was satisfying that mandate, but nothing was good enough for them. I had SMW running better in one week than it did in a year, but they blocked me at every turn. Said they had veto power.

Well, Jim Cornette wasn't going to be anyone's figurehead. I had ideas and the ability to implement them, but all they wanted was a yes man. So I resigned, that's what I

did. I quit. Yes, I quit.

That's why it surprised me so much when I got that letter on the SMW telecast saying I was impeached. I couldn't believe it! How could they impeach me after I had already resigned? That can't happen, even in SMW.

Besides, they couldn't impeach me even if they tried. James E. Cornette is smarter than the entire SMW Board of Directors combined and my lawyers are better than their lawyers.

You think it's easy to impeach someone just like that? You must be crazy. Heck, the U.S. government couldn't even impeach Richard Nixon. He resigned, too. That's right, I'm just like Richard



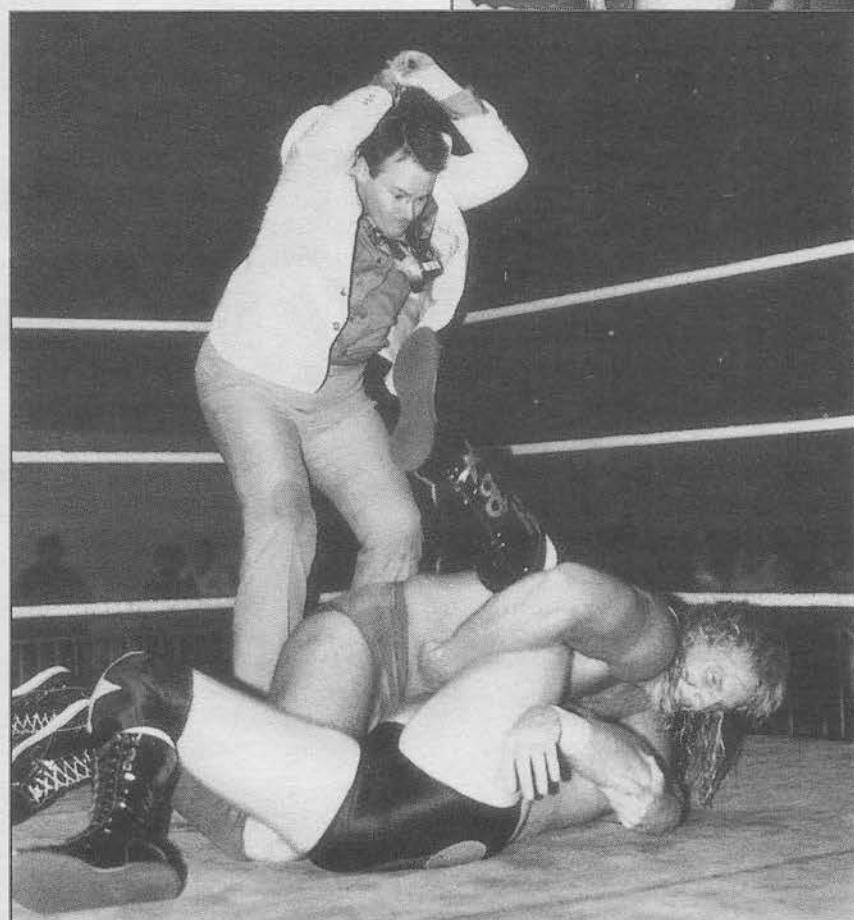
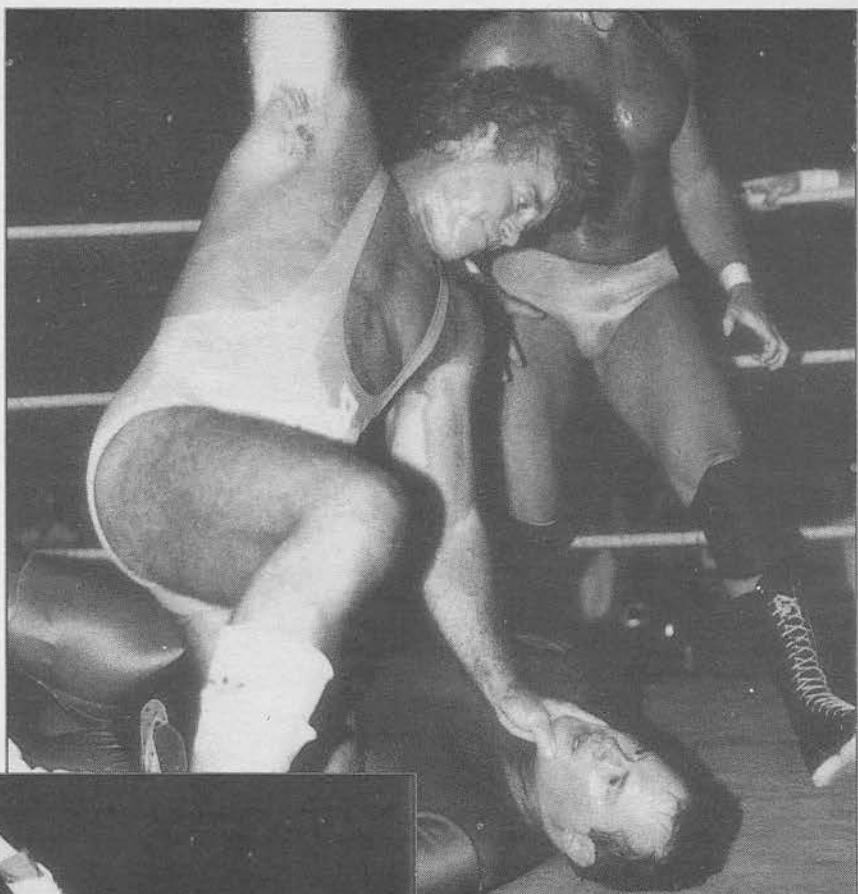
As long as SMW's Board of Directors won't allow Armstrong to return, Jim Cornette won't have to worry about embarrassing moments in the ring such as this.

Nixon because I resigned just like he did, and you're not going to have Jim Cornette to kick around anymore! (I am not a crook, either.)

You know what I think? I think the good people out there want to hear the whole story, straight from the horse's mouth. No double-talk, no lies, just the truth.

Here it is.

The SMW Board of Directors didn't mind it when "Bullet" Bob Armstrong wrestled Terry Funk, representing me, for the commissionership, but they sure as heck got worried when Terry won. That meant I was the new SMW commissioner and they knew there'd be changes. Those directors were nervous because they knew their cushy jobs and expense accounts were in big trouble.



Cornette called Armstrong the wrong man for SMW commissioner because "he just has too many biases." Doesn't James E. appear impartial as he oversees this match between Steve Armstrong (on top) and Tom Prichard?

In Cornette's two-week reign as SMW commissioner, he treated most of the federation's fan favorites with the same dignity and respect that he here shows rival Steve Armstrong.

I got things done. The first week I was in there, I fired Bob Caudle, that pathetic excuse for a TV announcer. I replaced him with the most charismatic individual in the sport, me, and we pumped some excitement into those broadcasts. Already, SMW was running as smoothly as a well-lubricated Mercedes-Benz.

I set things straight with Tim Horner. Not too many people knew it at the time, but he had been one of the biggest troublemakers in SMW. He didn't like it one bit that I was commissioner, and I knew he didn't like it, so I threatened to fine him if he so much as laid a finger on me.

That whole thing with Chris Candido and the baby bonnet was



A battered Jim Cornette leaves an arena on a stretcher after a bout with Bob Armstrong. Cornette has berated the Armstrong patriarch, saying he refuses to honor the agreements he has made.

absolutely ridiculous. If I had my way, Candido wouldn't have had to wear that bonnet for one minute when I was commissioner, but the Board of Directors wouldn't hear of it. Fortunately, my team of lawyers came up with a plan that kept with the letter of the law and went right around its spirit. If Horner didn't like what I did, who cares? SMW doesn't exist for him. If he wants to wrestle here, he's just going to have to follow the rules.

The board didn't like that either, so my lawyers and I conferred with their lawyers. Nothing was settled, so I walked out the door.

Speaking of breaking the rules, what kind of man circumvents the rules of a federation and then asks to be its commissioner? Bob Armstrong, that's what. You know, where I come from, an agreement's an agreement. If you shake hands

on something, it's written in stone. Armstrong can't be trusted and that's why he never was the right man to be SMW commissioner. He just has too many biases.

Armstrong lost that loser-leaves-SMW Smoky Mountain match against my Black Ninja, but he just refused to leave. He whined and screamed. Hey, Bullet Bob, who agreed to the match in the first place? You, that's who! If you want to dance, you have to pay the band.

Armstrong tried to get his old job back when I quit, but the Board of Directors finally did the right thing and wouldn't let him return. After all, he was supposed to leave SMW! What was he going to be, an absentee commissioner?

Now Armstrong has this guy wrestling in SMW to clear his name, but it's as clear as the nose on anyone's face that The Bullet is actual-

ly Bob Armstrong under a mask. The only people who can't see that are on the Board of Directors, and that doesn't surprise me at all. Virtually all of them are octogenarians with cataracts.

That Board should congratulate itself. It actually managed to find a new commissioner that's worse than Armstrong. You guessed it—the Board of Directors are the interim commissioners, even though nobody really knows who they are. Heck, they could be Robert Gibson and Rick Morton for all we know! Whatever became of being held accountable for your actions?

One day somebody's going to write a history of SMW, and they'll point out that the federation's brightest two weeks occurred while I was commissioner. But SMW blew its big chance for glory.

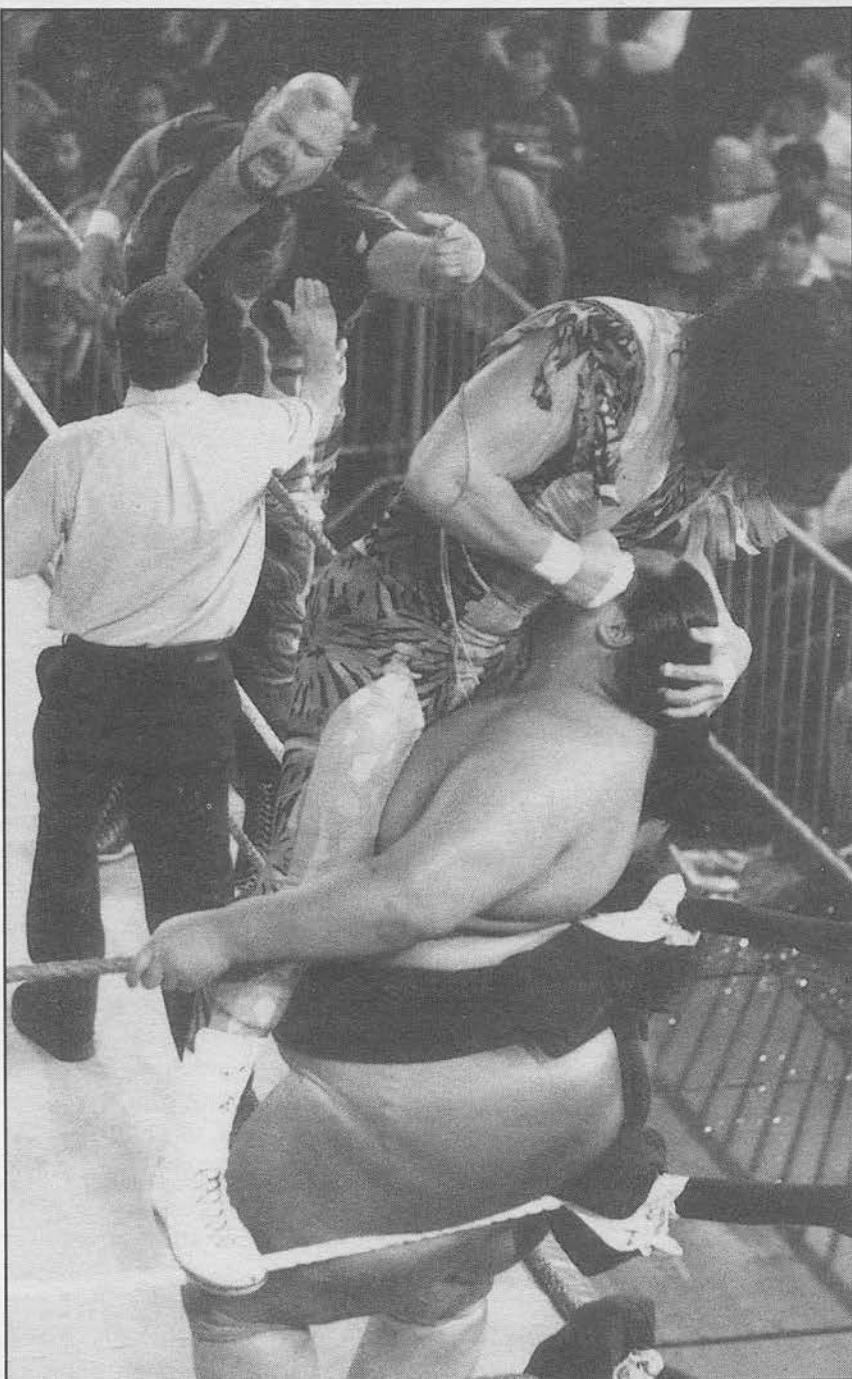
I quit. □

# We Demand A Rules Revision!

**WORLD  
CHAMPIONS:**

**STAY  
OUT OF  
TAG  
TEAM  
BOUTS!**

WWF World champion Yokozuna and WCW World champion Big Van Vader are defending their titles by wrestling in tag teams. It's time they faced their challengers without help from their friends, with the belts on the line!



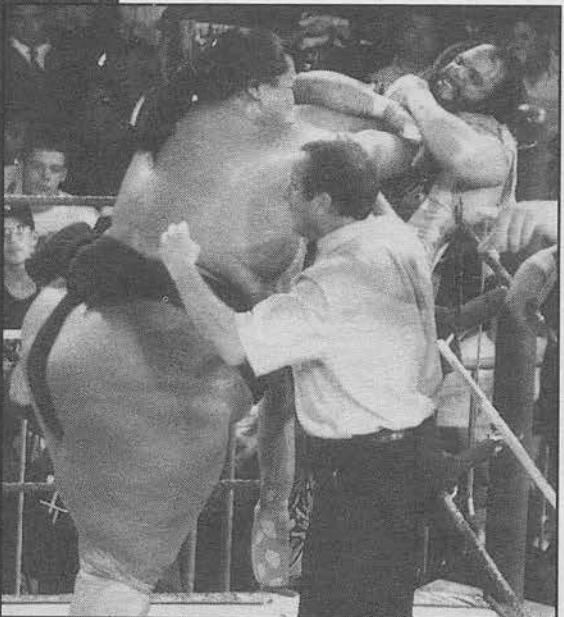
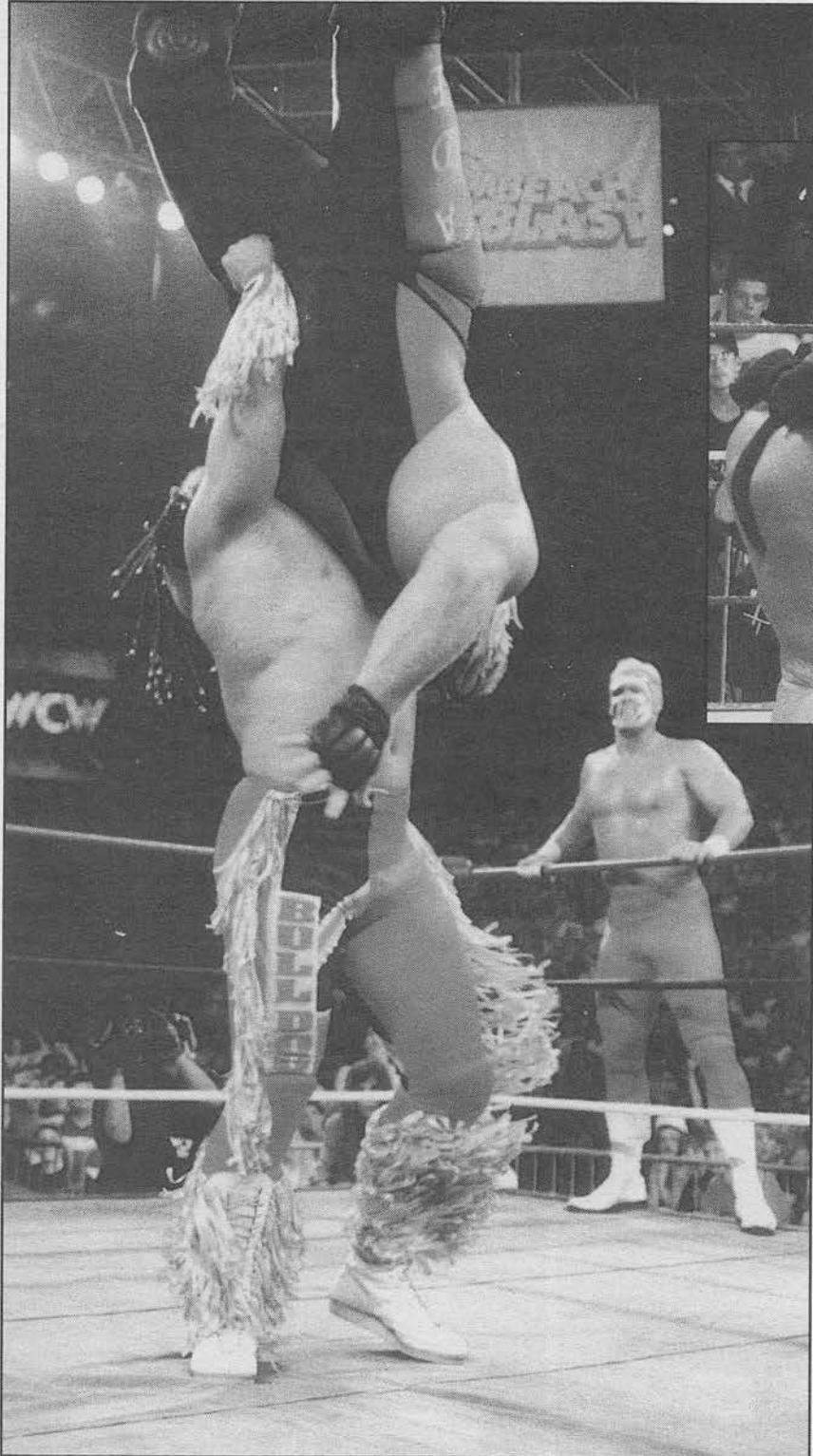
WWF World champion Yokozuna (above) likes to wrestle in the company of Bam Bam Bigelow, and WCW World champ Big Van Vader (opposite page) rarely competes solo these days. Why are these wrestlers not putting their titles on the line?

**A**T 440 POUNDS, WCW World champion Big Van Vader certainly is big. At 550 pounds, WWF World champion Yokozuna is even bigger. And as far as our

editorial staff is concerned, both are the biggest disappointments in wrestling.

Yes, Vader and Yokozuna have held their respective titles in a fig-

**Yokozuna vs. Randy Savage (below) alone would be a fascinating match. Add Bigelow and Bret Hart in a tag team mix, and the bout rapidly loses much of its significance.**



Randy Savage and Bret Hart. The current champion joined forces with an international star to battle two former champs; an all-star lineup, to be sure. Nevertheless, no title was on the line.

Four days later in Charleston, South Carolina, it was more of the same. The sumo master again paired with Bigelow vs. Rick and Scott Steiner. Again, the luster of the match was dulled because the champion was not defending his belt.

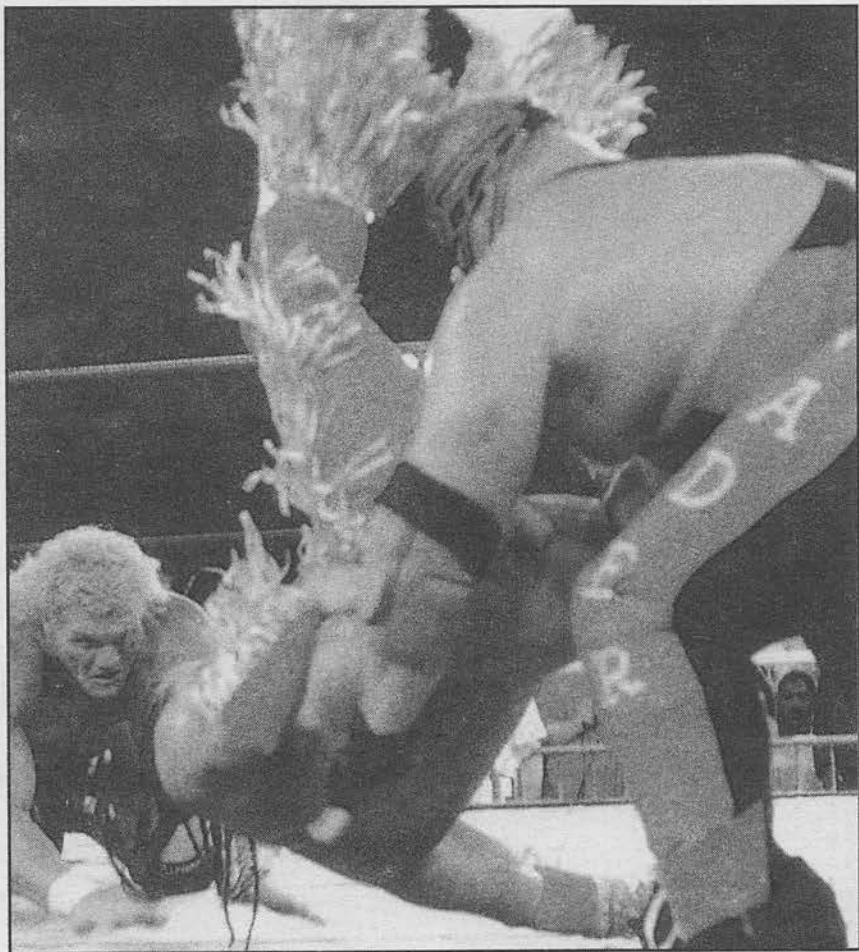
This has been the *modus operandi* of Yokozuna and his manager, Mr. Fuji, since he retained the title against Lex Luger at SummerSlam. Fuji, managing a singles champion for the first time in his career, may be unaccustomed to the heat he is feeling from federation contenders. If he is, though, he isn't saying. He refused comment for this story, and instructed his charge to do the same.

Perhaps Yokozuna and Fuji having been tracking the trials of Vader and his manager, the irrepressible Harley Race. Earlier this

urative bearhug for most of 1993. But this evaluation is not based on their performance. Both are employing a tactic often used by champions that exploits the fans and diminishes the value of the belts they wear:

The champions are wrestling in tag team matches.

For example, let's examine the lineup at *WWF Monday Night Raw* at the Manhattan Center on September 13. Yokozuna teamed with Bam Bam Bigelow against



Davey Boy Smith, being power-bombed by Big Van Vader, also has to contend with the lurking presence of Sid Vicious. The "British Bulldog" would have a far better chance against Vader in a solo bout.

year, Race opened conversations with Col. Robert Parker, the manager of Sid Vicious. The two struck a deal where Vader teamed with Vicious as The Masters of the Power Bomb. Since then, Vader has been wrestling almost exclusively in tag team matches involving four or more wrestlers, with his World title firmly tucked away.

At Fall Brawl, Vader and Vicious joined Harlem Heat in the "War Games" match against Sting, Davey Boy Smith, Dustin Rhodes, and The Shockmaster. Although Vader's team was beaten, his status as WCW World champion was unaffected by the loss.

Race offered an incredulous look when asked if Vader's participation in tag team matches was an effort to protect him and his

prized World title.

"Of course it is!" he boomed. "Not even Vader can defend the title every night. Forget about the physical aspect of the sport, which Vader handles better than anybody. The mental strain of having to be on your toes for every match is too much for anyone to bear. Even the rules say we only have to defend the title once every 30 days."

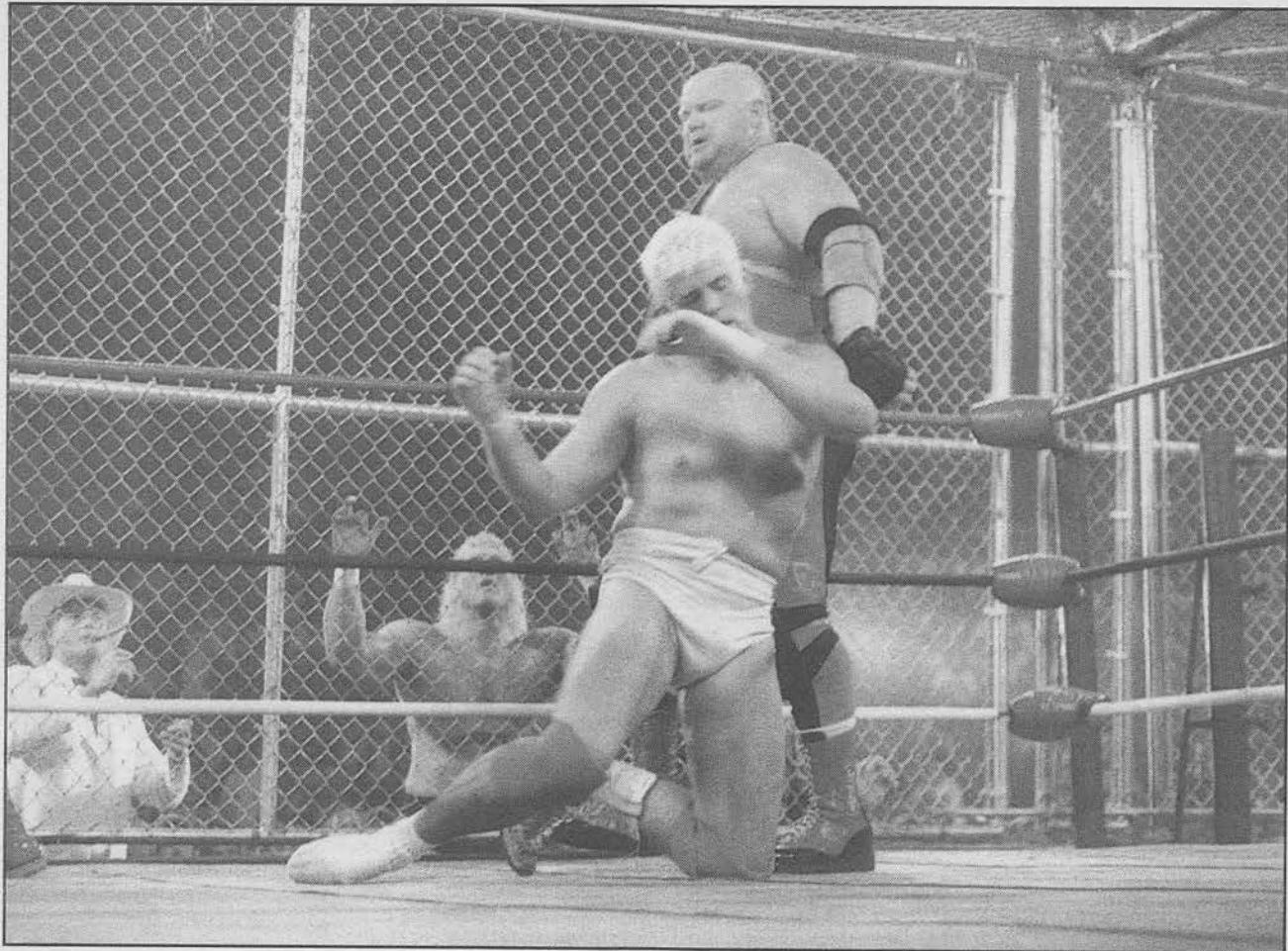
"There's other things to be gained wrestling in tag teams. You can take chances without costing yourself the title. You can scout out opponents. And you're not in the ring all the time, like you are in a singles match."

Race makes a good point, but it may be lost on the fans. The people who spend their hard-earned money to attend a wrestling card or purchase a pay-per-view event pay the salaries of these high-priced athletes. They don't want to hear about mental strain and strategy. They want to see the champion defending his title, not standing on the apron during a tag match.

"It was a good match," said Andrew Reilly, a 15-year-old in



Yokozuna and Bigelow have Savage (hidden) under control. Such an outcome might please Yokozuna's manager, Mr. Fuji, but it's not much fun for most wrestling fans. They pay top dollar to see singles champions defend their titles.



We propose that world champions such as Vader be prohibited from participating in tag team matches, even exotic events such as "War Games" at the recent Fall Brawl.

attendance at the Manhattan Center. "But it would have been a better match if they just had Hart wrestle Yokozuna for the title. After what happened at WrestleMania, he deserves a rematch."

Unfortunately, the champion and his manager get to call most of the shots. As long as the title is defended once every 30 days, Yokozuna and Vader are free to compete in as many tag team matches as their cold hearts desire. (And even if they don't defend the title every 30 days, they probably won't be penalized; look at Hulk Hogan's WWF reign this spring as proof.) There is nothing stopping them from defending the belts against perennial losers such as Steve Lombardi or Shanghai Pierce. Until legislation is passed, man-

agers like Fuji and Race will bend the rules like an armbar to keep their men on top.

The editorial staff of *THE WRESTLER* is calling for just that type of legislation. World champions must be prohibited from participating in tag team matches. That would prevent fans from leaving the arena with a bitter taste in their mouths and ensure no wrestler would hold simultaneous titles, another potential problem.

Forcing world champions to wrestle exclusively in singles bouts would also guarantee more title matches. Race maintains no champion can defend the title every night, and that is true. But no champion can defend the title once every 30 days, either. Inactivity decreases a competitor's

drive and focus. If you don't believe us, just take a look at what happened to Hogan.

The legislation also affects the other side of the match. With men like Yokozuna and Vader forced to defend their titles, challengers like Luger, Hart, Sting, and Smith will be forced to concentrate solely on singles matches, which would upgrade the quality of these matches.

It is harder to defend a title than to win one. Yokozuna and Vader know that, their managers know that, and all of the fan favorites gunning for the belt know that. If Yokozuna and Vader are true champions, they have to prove it in a one-on-one confrontation against top-notch opponents, not under the protective cloak of a tag team bout. □

# The Wrestler SPOTLIGHT LIGHTS...

Every month, *The Wrestler* will comb through its extensive photo files and shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. We'll present unforgettable highlights in the action-packed careers of the sport's greatest stars, culled from the most extensive photographic archives anywhere in the wrestling world!

## RAZOR RAMON

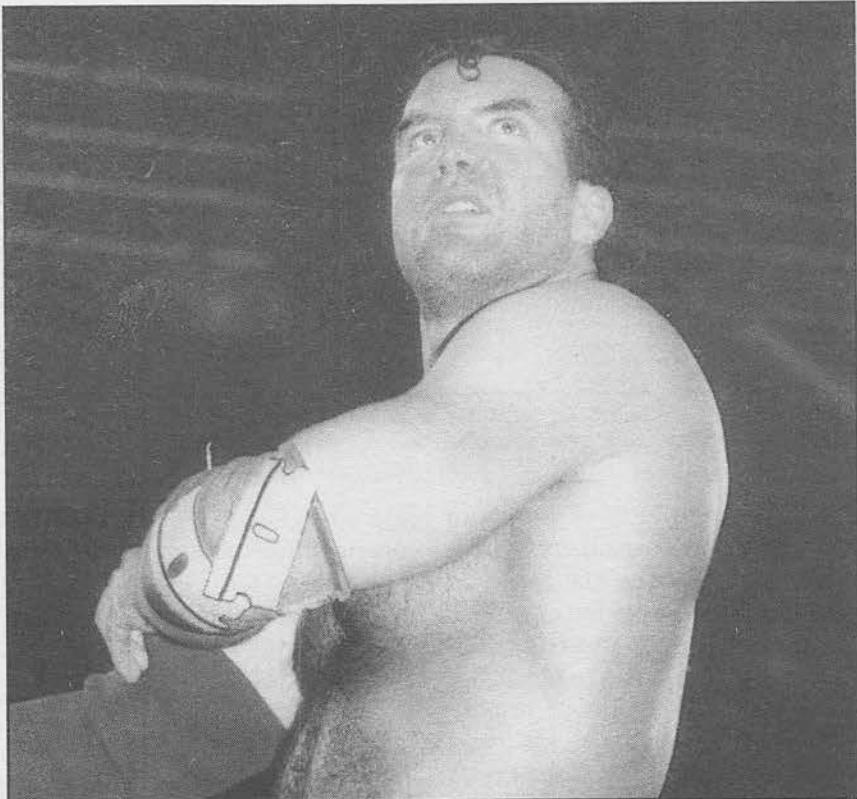
THE SELF-PROCLAIMED "bad guy" is feeling pretty good these days, now that he is WWF Intercontinental champion. After the WWF stripped Shawn Michaels of the I-C belt, Ramon defeated Rick Martel for the title; those two were the last survivors of a 20-man battle royal, the first step in determining a new champ.

The 6'8", 291-pound Ramon was discovered—along with friend Dan Spivey—by Barry Windham. They were trained by Harley Race and Pat O'Connor, and the duo made its debut with a win over Marty Jannetty and "Bulldog" Bob Brown.

Ramon soon moved to the AWA using the name Scott Hall. He teamed with Curt Hennig to defeat Jim Garvin and Steve Regal for the AWA World tag team title in 1986, but they were dethroned in a controversial countout defeat four months later by Buddy Rose and Doug Somers. After a bloody feud with Col. DeBeers, Hall moved to Florida and challenged Lex Luger, but Luger left the area.

Hall changed his name to The Diamond Studd under "Diamond" Dallas Page's tutelage in 1990. There he began using his "Razor's edge" power bomb variation as a finishing maneuver.

After a so-so stint in WCW, Hall became Ramon upon entering the WWF. He also inexplicably developed a Hispanic accent and allied himself with Ric Flair, Bobby Heenan, and Hennig. He claimed he was the WWF's real "Macho Man" and inter-



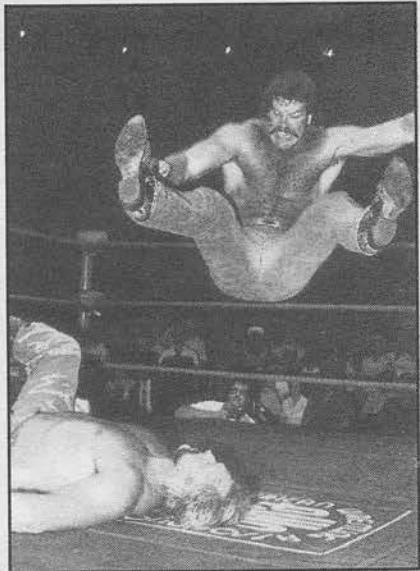
fered in the September 1992 match between Flair and Savage in which Flair regained the WWF World title. Ramon severely injured Savage's knee.

After Hennig fell out with Heenan, Savage and "Mr. Perfect" beat Flair and Ramon at Survivor Series '92. Ramon then lost by submission to World champ Bret Hart at Royal Rumble '93.

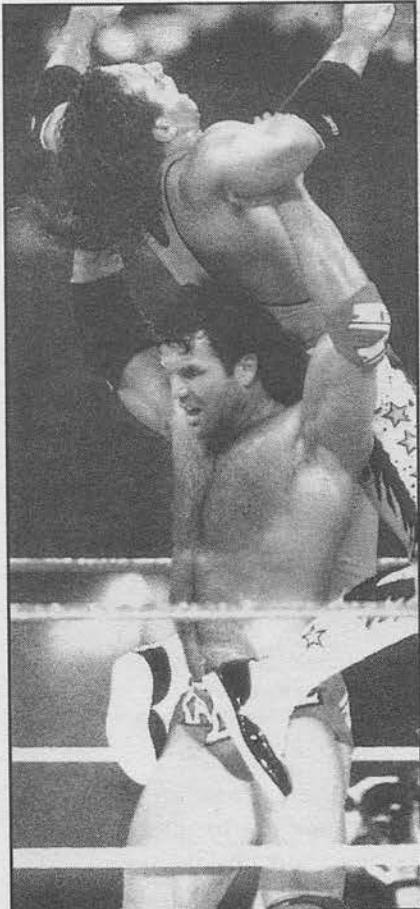
After surviving feuds with Big Bossman and Hennig, Ramon was shocked when the upstart Kid pinned

him on WWF Monday Night Raw. Kid even stole \$10,000 from him after a Raw rematch. Money Inc.'s Irwin R. Schyster and Ted DiBiase belittled him for losing the money; that caused Ramon to turn fan favorite. He got revenge on DiBiase by pinning him at SummerSlam '93. He's still after Schyster.

Now Ramon's I-C champ and one of the WWF's most popular athletes. He's no longer an underachiever and is getting his share of time in the "Spotlight."

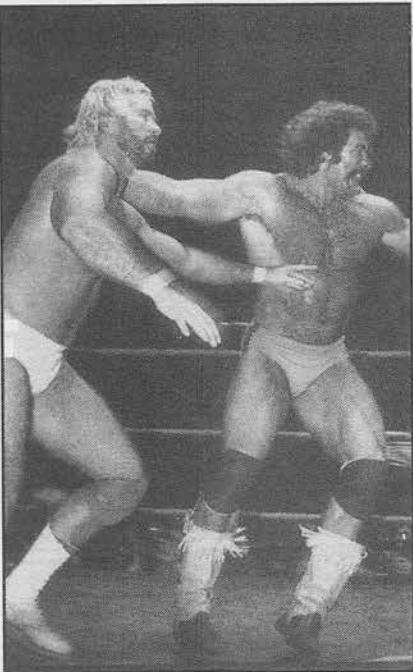


October 1985: Razor Ramon (then known as Scott Hall) joined the AWA, where he began an intense feud with Col. DeBeers. He had been trained by Harley Race and Pat O'Connor.

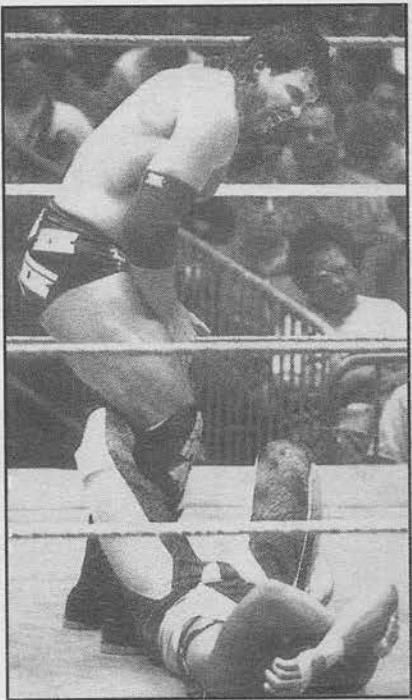


May 1993: Ramon holds former World champion Bret Hart aloft. The "Razor's" inconsistency can be maddening, but it may be in check now that he is Intercontinental champion.

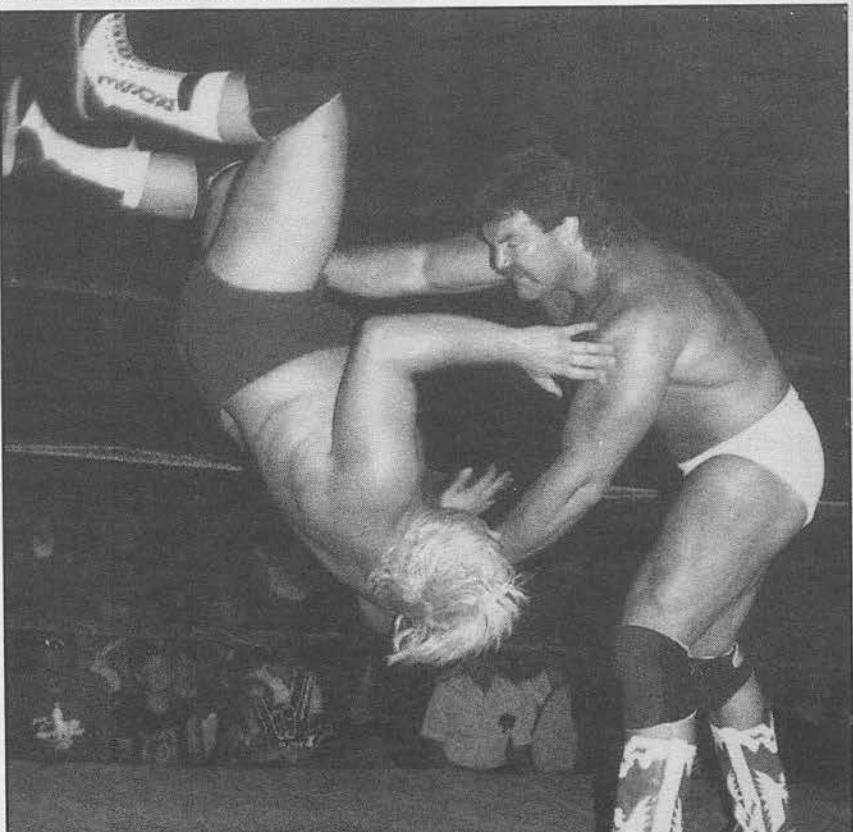
December 1985: Hall takes on Steve Regal (not to be confused with WCW's Lord Steven Regal) in tag team action. Hall and Curt Hennig soon deposed Regal and Jim Garvin, and enjoyed a four-month reign as champions.



April 1986: Hall slams Buddy Rose, but Rose and Doug Somers would have the last laugh. They posted a controversial victory over Hall and Hennig for the AWA tag team title. Hall would soon move on to Florida.



September 1992: Ramon enters the WWF, and severely injures Randy Savage during the "Macho Man's" match against Ric Flair. That helped Flair gain his second WWF World title.



# MATT BROCK'S LOOKING BACK

July 1958  
**Gorgeous George**  
vs.  
**Dick The Bruiser**



EVERY SPORT HAS one performer who changed it forever, whether it be in strategy or simply in popularity. Babe Ruth showed what a baseball weapon the home run could be. Wayne Gretzky opened up hockey's offense like no one before him. On the other hand, Arnold Palmer caused no strategic revolution in golf, but his charisma lifted the sport to new heights.

Wrestling's version of Palmer? No doubt about it—Gorgeous George. He had no innovative moves like Antonino Rocca, nor was he as physically impressive as Andre the Giant. But George's charisma was overwhelming; without him, wrestling might never have become a post-World War II sensation. The Bruno Sammartinos, Ric Flairs, and Hulk Hogans would be known only to a few, not to millions.

Gorgeous George hasn't entered the ring yet, but "valette" Cherie Dupre has arrived and is getting things ready. Opponent Dick the Bruiser apparently isn't thrilled with Cherie's presence, and lets her know it.

George's influence even carried over to boxing. One of his younger fans was enthralled by his style, and adapted it for his career. That's Muhammad Ali, whose early outlandish "I am the greatest" statements were in the best Gorgeous George tradition.

Younger wrestling reporters always ask me for stories about George, and I'm always glad to provide them. The former George Wagner, a one-time boxer from Nebraska by way of Houston, was a good technical wrestler for years. But he never achieved



George (wearing a red bouffant gown) and the Bruiser exchange stares before the match. If you think that's an orchid George is holding in his left hand ... well, you're right!

fame until he took on his flamboyant persona—peroxidized “champagne” hair, flowing satiny robes, even a valet. Such gimmicks are common now, but then they were unheard of.

George's rise coincided with the birth of commercial television in Los Angeles, and he became the “Toast Of The Coast.” He reportedly made \$65,000 in 1948; few athletes in any sport earned that much money in that era. Eventually, we Easterners got to see what the fuss was all about, but George's core of support remained in L.A.

Twice divorced and beset by financial difficulties later in life, George suffered a heart attack and died in 1963 at age 48. One of his last hurrahs in the ring—and one of my fondest memories of him—came five years before, when he took on Dick the Bruiser in a best-of-three falls match at the Chicago Amphitheatre.

It was his first Midwest appearance since 1954, and George,

always the showman, made the most of it. The Lions International convention was in town at the same time, and he asked to participate in their parade. They refused, calling his presence “too commercial.” Undaunted, George borrowed a convertible and held a one-man parade of his own in the Loop, handing out orchids and spraying women with perfume. I still recall the smiles on faces of people on State Street when his “valette,” Cherie Dupre, coiffed his hair.

George went all around town in the three days prior to the match. He danced the hula at Club Waikiki, appeared at the “Back Of The Yards Free Fair,” and even met Kim Novak (the Michelle Pfeiffer of '58, kids). He gave her



No doubt about it—George is hurting. In 1958, when he dropped this match to Dick the Bruiser, his career was starting to decline. The loss only confirmed his status as yesterday's hero.

the famed “Georgie Kiss,” holding her hand but kissing his own.

George is remembered today for entering the ring to “Pomp And Circumstance,” but that night he instead was preceded by a three-man bagpipe team borrowed from the Lions. He showered fans with flowers and gold “Georgie pins”



Bruiser took command from the start of the best-of-three-falls match. Here he gets ready to lay the helpless George on the mat, much to the dismay of the Chicago audience.

(his version of the bobby pin), and Cherie sprayed the ring with Chanel No. 10. The crowd of 6,002 loved it. Dick the Bruiser, a former Green Bay Packers lineman, could have cared less.

And he was right; Bruiser needed only five minutes to give George a reverse backbreaker. While George retaliated with a series of flying hiplocks culminating in a bodypress, Bruiser responded with a bodypress of his own. Although Cherie tried to come to George's aid, the move stuck for the pin in just over 12 minutes. The two disagreed over the outcome, and Bruiser tried to hit George with the ring microphone.

“I think he's a bit past his prime,” I said to a press row companion, who nodded glumly. As I left the Amphitheatre, I muttered to myself, “An era has passed.”

Nevertheless, George was the pivotal figure in bringing wrestling back after several lean years. Every wrestler today owes him their gratitude. □

## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 5)

weight title, and now he's managing? What a joke.

Can you please limit future subjects for "X-Ray" to accomplished wrestlers, not nobodies like Polo? What a waste.

RITA M. BUDA  
Chicago

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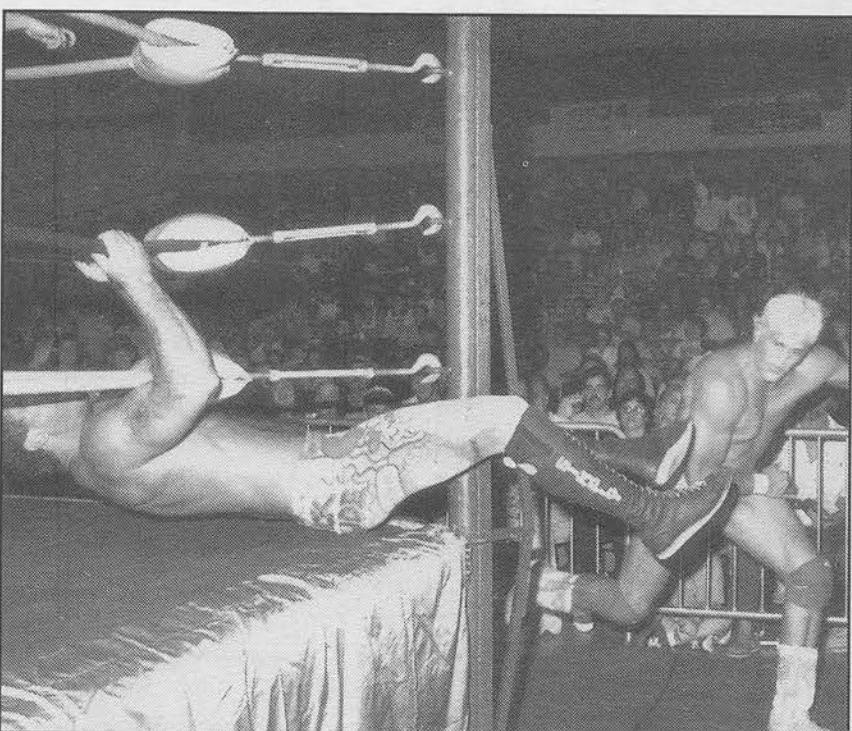
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Dustin Rhodes' recent U.S. title victory over Rick Rude pleased reader Marc Pecoraro. He predicts "The Natural" will have a long and successful reign.

But since then, Regal has been exceptional. He's still smooth as ever, and his level of confidence has shot way up. Maybe thanks should go to "Sir" William Dundee. Recently, Regal made 2 Cold Scorpio look clumsy on TV, and he did an admirable job filling in for Brian Pillman. While Paul

Roma only threw haymakers, Regal wrestled.

While it may be a bit too obvious, I think the perfect tag partner for Regal would be fellow Briton Chris Adams. Their styles complement perfectly.

In the meantime, I hear Lord Steven may be challenging for Rick Steamboat's TV title. This is an intriguing matchup. I predict gold for the royalty and the "Dragon" going down in flames. Or is that up in smoke?

K.C. DARKHARTE  
Biloxi, MS

### RIDIN' THE RHODES

I am happy that Dustin Rhodes has won the U.S. title for a second time. Dustin is a fine all-around wrestler, and I feel he will hold on to this belt for a long time to come.

MARC PECORARO  
Fair Lawn, NJ □

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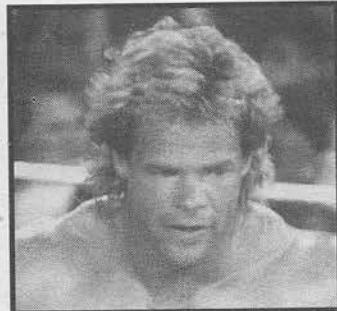
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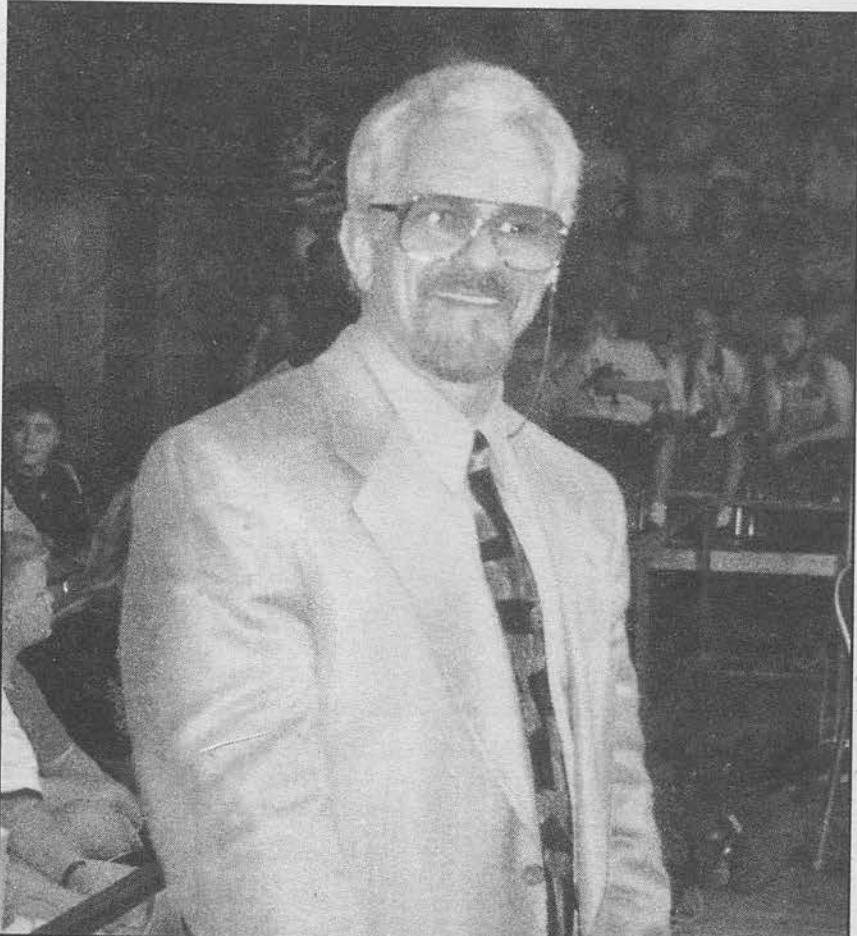
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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 7)



Les Thatcher did something many people dream of doing: control Jim Cornette. He and Smoky Mountain Wrestling's Board of Directors successfully impeached Cornette, who had briefly taken over as SMW commissioner.

wrestlers will vouch that "Sensational" Sherri is not a woman you want to get on your bad side.

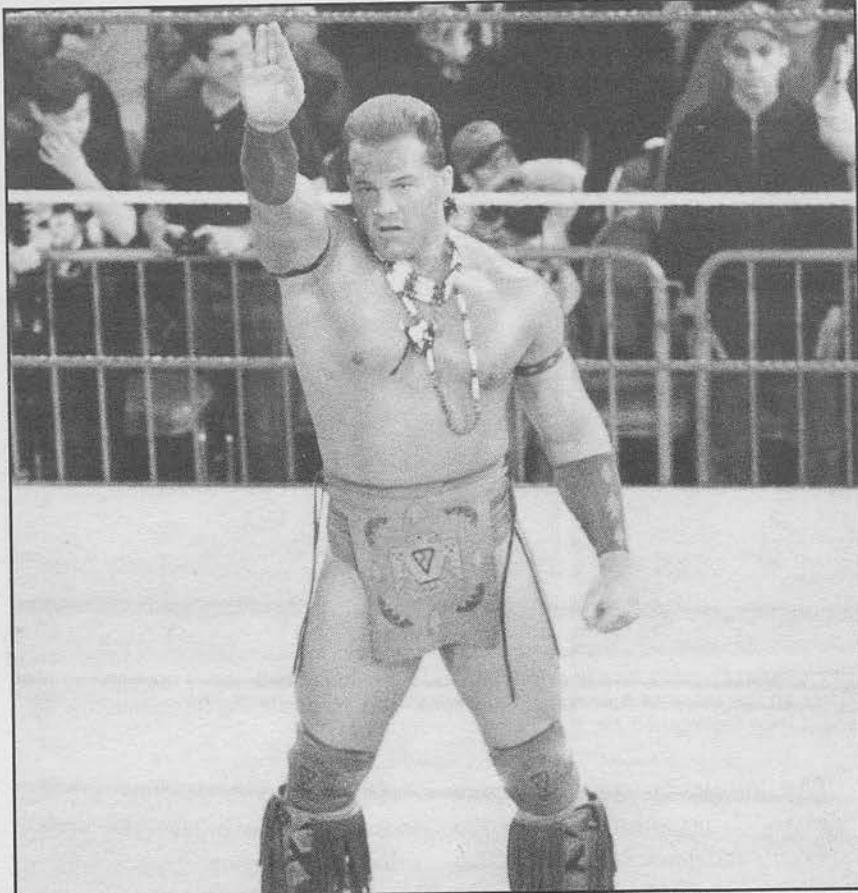
And Smothers may be running out of title shots. Many of the recent Lee-Smooters matches have been contested with "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony locked in a cage to prevent him from getting involved ...

Smoky Mountain fan favorites must be breathing a sigh of relief. The federation's board had new spokesman Les Thatcher present new commissioner Jim Cornette with a letter stating that he had been impeached. Cornette had won the commissionership when

his protege Terry Funk pinned Bob Armstrong, who had held the job until returning to the ring over the summer. Armstrong later had to leave SMW when the mysterious Black Ninja, helped by a Doink-like Ninja clone, beat him in a loser-leaves-the-federation match.

It wouldn't surprise me to see Fytch apply for the vacant commissionership; she's always said that not enough women were employed in prominent Smoky Mountain positions. I'm not sure who would be worse: Cornette or Fytch ...

I think I need a scorecard to



Something strange happens to WWF fan favorites who invade USWA territory—they turn into rulebreakers. Tatanka's the latest star to undergo this change, as he dethroned Jerry Lawler and held the federation title for one week.

start keeping track of USWA action. **Tatanka** became the latest WWF hero to turn rulebreaker in Memphis. He dethroned **Jerry Lawler** as USWA champ, then lost the title back to "The King" a week later in the final of a mini-Survivor Series. Since it was not a pure singles match, the defeat does not go against Tatanka's record, and WWF announcers can continue to call him "the undefeated Native American."

**Jeff Jarrett** and **Tommy Rich** have developed quite a heated rivalry in a short period of time. Rich won the Southern belt from Jarrett, but at press time the title was held up after **Paul Neighbors** interfered in a cage match and dazed referee **Frank Morell** couldn't determine who pinned who.

Just when I thought the veteran Rich's career had all but ended, he has come storming back. It's nice to see he can still get it done against top athletes like Jarrett.

I just wish "Wildfire" would remember some of the great sportsmanship he showed when he was so popular in Georgia a decade ago.

Speaking of veterans, I saw where **Nikolai Volkoff** and **Jimmy Garvin** appeared together on an independent card in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania. I heard Garvin gave ECW standout **Shane Douglas** more than he could handle before finally losing. It'd be great to see them back in action full-time.

That's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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## NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 8)

Hogan's two previous cinematic gems, then basically what we'll have is another one-star non-comedy starring a no-talent. (Incidentally, let me reiterate that *No Holds Barred*, the film, was not named after this column. Or so we decided after attorneys told us we couldn't sue them for theft.)

But I was intrigued by several aspects of *Mr. Nanny*. The first was the trailers aired on TV. You might have seen one. In one scene, Hogan shouts out, "I hate kids!" Now, I don't know the context of that statement, but it struck a nerve because I've always believed Hogan *does* hate kids, or at least doesn't care about them.

"I hate kids!" That's just beautiful. Hogan never liked kids. He loves their parents' money.

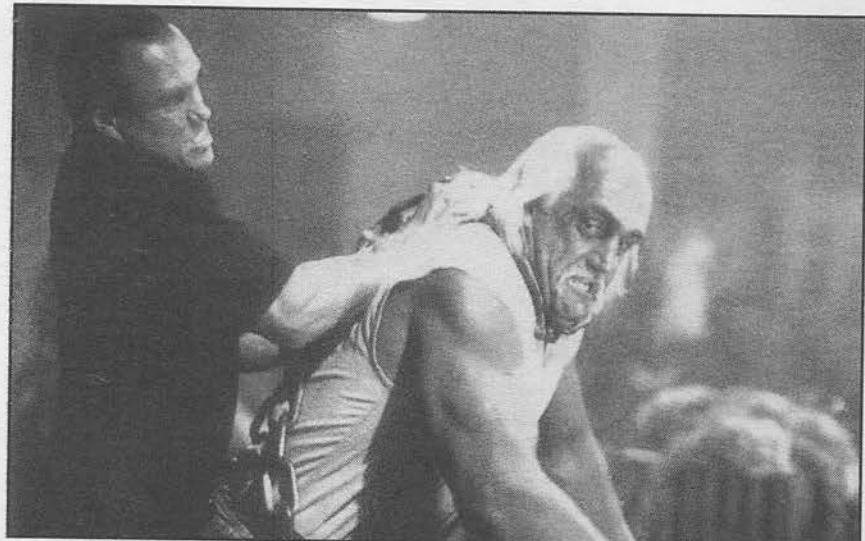
An advertisement for the film featured these pulled movie reviewers' comments: "Entertainment, Family Style," the *Niagara Gazette* critic allegedly said. But I especially loved the comment from something called *The Daily Express*:

"It's 'Home Alone' Meets 'James Bond.'"

I don't know about you, but I never wanted *Home Alone* to meet *James Bond*. What does that mean? Is this movie about a young boy whose parents go away on vacation and mistakenly leave him behind with a house full of scantily clad women named Miss Goodnight, and how he holds off the bald bad guys by hot-wiring the microwave?

Actually, Hogan plays a pro wrestler (how innovative) who becomes a baby sitter.

"Finally Someone To Look Up To ... Tu" reads the copy in the newspaper ads. A photo of Hogan in a ballerina's tu-tu accompanies the ad copy.



The look on Hogan's face is priceless. You'll be able to find nearly identical expressions on the faces of America's film critics—that is, assuming Rosenbaum is right about their feelings on *Mr. Nanny*.

The movie co-stars Sherman Hemsley. That should get all the *Jeffersons* and *Amen* fans into the theaters.

Let me close this portion of *No Holds Barred* (the column) by saying I hope the movie fails at the box office and Hogan never makes another film. I also hope he never again returns to the ring. The WWF doesn't need him. Jerry Lawler vs. Bret Hart is keeping us very busy and very entertained.

There's just one scary thought:

What if I like the movie?

A thought: Wouldn't it have been great if Ric Flair showed up in something like *The Age Of Innocence* (the mind reels, pardon the pun, at the thought of a Flair-Michelle Pfeiffer love scene) or a real kids' film like *Searching For Bobby Fischer*?

\*\*\*

Barney the Dinosaur is the new Hulk Hogan.

I hate that purple fraud. Okay. Hate is too strong a word.

I resent that purple fraud. Barney, I mean, not Hulk.

Of course, kids love him. My one-year-old nephew-in-law cries hysterically when someone tries to turn off his Barney videotape. He sits there with this hypnotic look on his face when the dinosaur is on TV. It seems a lot of children are equally fascinated by Barney.

So why, you are surely asking, is Barney the new Hulk Hogan?

Because Hogan is an untalented, unimaginative person who appealed to children, and so is Barney. All the stupid dinosaur does is make up new lyrics to old children's songs. How much talent does that take? The dumb dinosaur has an annoying voice and doesn't even look like a dinosaur.

Hogan also has an annoying voice and doesn't look like a dinosaur.

You know, Stu Saks used to say I'm the most negative person on earth. That might be true, but at least I write my own sentences.

Hey, I just came up with a great idea for a novel about a soldier in South Florida who gets shot and falls in love with the nurse who treats him. It's called *A Farewell To Palms*. □

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## CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 14)



Giant Gonzales—all 7'7" of him—dwarfs Randy Savage in WWF tag team action. The "Macho Man" would later cut him down to size with a pin, and Gonzales eventually took out his frustration on teammate Adam Bomb.

Gonzales finally tagged in. The referee tried to get Harvey Wippleman to order Gonzales to release his chokehold on Undertaker. Bomb's manager, Johnny Polo, used the opportunity to take a whack at Undertaker with his golf club. He accidentally nailed Gonzales.

Undertaker recovered and used a series of clotheslines to topple the giant. Sensing victory, he tagged out to Savage. "Macho Man" delivered one of his famed elbowsmashes from the top rope and pinned Gonzales. As Savage and Undertaker shook hands, a frustrated Gonzales choked Bomb and Polo until officials separated them.

In other bouts: Razor Ramon defeated Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels by disqualification when Diesel interfered ...

Rick & Scott Steiner defeated The Headshrinkers ... "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig defeated Bam Bam Bigelow ... Tatanka and Doink wrestled to a 20-minute time-limit draw ... Men on a Mission beat Well Dunn ... The Kid defeated Bastion Booger.

**Johnson City, TN (Correspondent—Aaron Woodsen):** The Rock 'n' Roll Express was coming off its Smoky Mountain tag team title win over Jim Cornette's Bruise Brothers, but Rick Morton and Robert Gibson were up against another Cornette duo, The Heavenly Bodies, a team whose confidence has been bolstered by its recent success in the WWF.

This match was billed as a special grudge match; the Rock 'n'



Tom Prichard of The Heavenly Bodies has a headlock on Rick Morton of The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Their partners would decide this non-title match, however, as Robert Gibson pinned the Bodies' Jim Del Ray.

Rolls' title was not on the line. Jimmy Del Ray and Tom Prichard tried to brawl their way to victory against Morton and Gibson, but the Rock 'n' Rolls responded with

a flurry of punches of their own. Finally, the Bodies got the chance to double-team Morton. It looked as if Del Ray and Prichard would prevail, but Morton was able to struggle to his corner and tag his partner. After a four-man brawl ensued, Gibson used an inside cradle to pin Del Ray.

In other bouts: Tim Horner defeated Chris Candido in a "country whipping" match ... Steve & Scott Armstrong beat The Bruise Brothers ... In a loser-leaves-SMW match, Black Ninja (representing Jim Cornette) pinned Bob Armstrong ... Tracey Smothers defeated SMW champ Brian Lee by disqualification.

**Clementon, NJ (Correspondent—Christopher Rothberg):** Ray Odyssey and Ed the Razor have been WWA rivals for what seems like forever. Both had held the federation's junior heavyweight title several times. Ed was champ as he entered the arena for this Canadian chain match.

Ringside fans were soon on their feet, as action turned into a bloody mess. Both wrestlers used the chain to open gashes on the other's face. But after nearly 20 minutes, the referee accidentally got caught in the chain and was knocked off his feet. While Odyssey tended to the injured official, Ed got another chain from ringside and knocked out his unsuspecting opponent. The fans were crushed when Ed was declared the winner.

In other bouts: Lord of Darkness Pain beat Chris Stryker ... Joe Daniels defeated Spider to win the heavyweight title ... Big Bossman defeated Chris Evans. □



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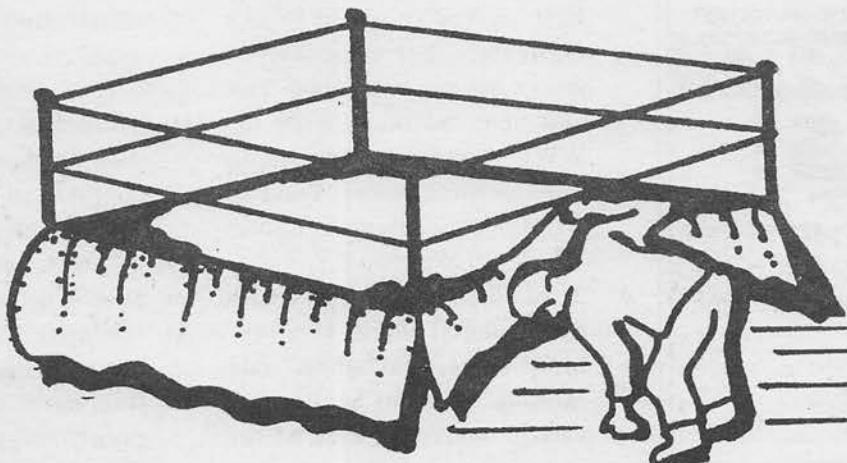
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## YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 16)

Nasty Boys, who you are now managing?"—Rita Danby, Coral Springs, FL

**A:** "They're championship material, that's how I can stand it," said Hyatt. "Jerry Sags and Brian Knobs are my kind of men. They're not afraid to kick some butt against some of the wimpier guys in WCW. Those new Horsemen started to make me sick. I used to think Ric Flair was pretty good, but now he's gotten all soft. He's definitely not *nasty*. It was real cool watchin' Brian and Jerry beat up stupid Paul Roma and Arn Anderson at Fall Brawl. I'm just glad I don't have to be in the ring with them. I'm *nasty*, but I'm not *gross*."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I have a question for Rick Morton of The Rock 'n' Roll Express: You've seen it all as a tag teamer, but what did you think when you heard about Rick and Scott Steiner losing the WWF World tag team title to The Quebecers under 'Province Of Quebec' rules?"—Laurel Woodley, Lexington, KY

**A:** "It ranked right up there with the strangest things I've ever heard about in wrestling," said Morton. "It might have been a case of overconfidence on the Steiners' part. With a devious manager like Johnny Polo around, you have to watch what you're agreeing to. I know Jim Cornette's tried to pull a lot of tricks on me and Robert Gibson over the years. But I don't blame the Steiners. When you're champs, you welcome the opportunity to prove you're the best on anybody's



Rick Morton (leaping over a charging Tom Prichard) says he can't understand why Rick and Scott Steiner agreed to bizarre rules for their match against The Quebecers, but he doesn't blame them.

terms. If they refocus their efforts, they'll be back on top soon."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "A question for Col. DeBeers: After all these years, why do you continue to go after men like Jimmy Snuka and try to spread your anti-American message?"—Dave Briscomb, Tacoma, WA

**A:** "Because I'm sick of people assuming that just because they live here that America is great," responded DeBeers. "That's not true. I came to this country to prove to everyone how pathetic it actually is. Snuka just got in my way, that's all. He's not smart enough to stay away, so I have to keep on pounding him. Snuka thinks he's a hero for trying to get rid of me. Me and guys like Ludvig Borga are the real American heroes today." □

## BACK ISSUES OF

# Wrestler

THE

**November 1985/Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.  
**December 1985/Stories include:** Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.  
**February 1986/Stories include:** Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.  
**March 1986/Stories include:** Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.  
**May 1986/Stories include:** Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.  
**June 1986/Stories include:** Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.  
**July 1986/Stories include:** King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.  
**August 1986/Stories include:** Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.  
**September 1986/Stories include:** Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.  
**November 1986/Stories include:** R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.  
**December 1986/Stories include:** Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.  
**January 1987/Stories include:** Heenan, Garvin, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.  
**February 1987/Stories include:** Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.  
**March 1987/Stories include:** Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.  
**April 1987/Stories include:** Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.  
**June 1987/Stories include:** Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.  
**July 1987/Stories include:** Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.  
**August 1987/Stories include:** Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.  
**October 1987/Stories include:** Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.  
**November 1987/Stories include:** Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.  
**December 1987/Stories include:** Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

**January 1988/Stories include:** Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.  
**March 1988/Stories include:** Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.  
**May 1988/Stories include:** Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.  
**June 1988/Stories include:** Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.  
**July 1988/Stories include:** Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.  
**August 1988/Stories include:** Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.  
**October 1988/Stories include:** Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.  
**November 1988/Stories include:** Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.  
**January 1989/Stories include:** Kevin Von, Rougeau, Horsemen, Hogan.  
**February 1989/Stories include:** Warriors, Ultimate-Hogan, Bigelow-Gordy.  
**March 1989/Stories include:** Jarrett, Flair, Jake-Andre, Bigelow-Windham.  
**April 1989/Stories include:** Bulldogs, Warriors, Andre, Hogan-Savage.  
**May 1989/Stories include:** Steamboat, Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Valentine.  
**June 1989/Stories include:** Steamboat, Martel, Ultimate-Savage, Luger, Flair.  
**July 1989/Stories include:** Warrior, Hogan-Bravo, Flair-Steamboat, Rhodes.  
**September 1989/Stories include:** Flair-Funk, Piper, Demolition, Zeus.  
**October 1989/Stories include:** Hogan & Beefcake vs. Zeus & Savage, Hyatt, Hayes, Long, Embry, WWF Horsemen.  
**November 1989/Stories include:** Piper-Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Flair-Funk.  
**December 1989/Stories include:** Muta-Sting, Andre-Ultimate, Windham.  
**January 1990/Stories include:** Pillman, Hogan, Rich-Luger, Tully & Am.

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**February 1990/Stories include:** Sting-Luger, Gordy, Martel, Hogan-Brown.  
**March 1990/Stories include:** Steiners, Flair-Funk, Hogan-Zeus, Survivors.  
**April 1990/Stories include:** Hogan, Luger, Woman, Piper-Heenan, Travis.  
**May 1990/Stories include:** Sting & Ultimate, Bossman, Von Erichs, Hogan.  
**June 1990/Stories include:** Hogan, Rockers, Koloffs, Horsemen, Flair-Luger.  
**July 1990/Stories include:** Poffo, Dusty-Savage, Luger-Flair, Doom, Blanchard.  
**August 1990/Stories include:** Hogan-Warrior, Embry, Demolition, Doom.  
**September 1990/Stories include:** Ultimate, Haynes, Luger, Doom, Tugboat.  
**October 1990/Stories include:** Hogan-Earthquake, Ultimate, Flair, Rich.  
**November 1990/Stories include:** Luger & Sting, Beefcake, Race, Steiners.  
**February 1991/Stories include:** Sting-Vicious, Muta-Steamboat, Warrior, Hogan.  
**March 1991/Stories include:** Hogan-Warrior, Piper, Cornette, Steiners.  
**April 1991/Stories include:** Hogan, DiBiase, Skyscrapers, Luger, Zenk.  
**May 1991/Stories include:** Hogan-Slaughter, Flair, Eaton, Sheik-Bobo.  
**June 1991/Stories include:** Hogan, Nasty, Sting, Flair, Cactus Jack.  
**July 1991/Stories include:** Flair-Fujinami, Nasty, Steiners, Savage.  
**August 1991/Stories include:** Slaughter, Luger-Nikita, Hennig, Poffo.  
**September 1991/Stories include:** Steiners vs. Sting & Luger, LOD, Cactus.  
**November 1991/Stories include:** Luger, Steamboat, Piper, Global.  
**December 1991/Stories include:** Flair-Hogan, Beverly, Sting-Luger.  
**January 1992/Stories include:** LOD, Badd, Hughes, Roberts, Gossett.

**February 1992/Stories include:** Flair, Simmons, Santana, Backlund.  
**March 1992/Stories include:** Pillman, WWF title, Rude, Mountie-Hart.  
**April 1992/Stories include:** Bearer, WCW magic, Hennig & Flair, LPWA.  
**May 1992/Stories include:** Flair, Anderson & Eaton, Piper, Rhodes, USWA.  
**June 1992/Stories include:** Flair-Hogan-Justice, Gilbert, Warrior, Vegas.  
**July 1992/Stories include:** Rude, LOD, Madusa, Monsoon, Nurse Vanessa.  
**August 1992/Stories include:** Warrior, Bunkhouse, Undertaker-Roberts, Sting.  
**September 1992/Stories include:** LOD, Repo vs. Crush, Kleen, Freebirds.  
**October 1992/Stories include:** Bulldog & Warrior, Lee, Martel-Tatanka, Austin.  
**November 1992/Stories include:** Crush, Reed, Hennig, Sting, Rogers.  
**December 1992/Stories include:** Hogan, Roberts, Simmons, Rock 'n' Rolls.  
**January 1993/Stories include:** Ramon-Savage, Sting-Roberts, Disasters.  
**February 1993/Stories include:** Hart, Rick Steiner, Backlund, Austin.  
**June 1993/Stories include:** Sting-Vader, Doink & Christopher, Steiners, Lawler.  
**July 1993/Stories include:** Davey Boy-Vader, Ramon, Rhodes, Tatanka, Bravo murder.  
**August 1993/Stories include:** Hogan-Yokozuna, Jarrett, Vicious, Hart, Payne.  
**September 1993/Stories include:** Ramon, Steiners, Simmons, Hart, Sting & Davey Boy.  
**October 1993/Stories include:** SummerSlam lists, Vader & Vicious, Nanny Simpson, Owen Hart-Lawler.  
**November 1993/Stories include:** Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Jannetty, Bodies, Power Bombs.  
**December 1993/Stories include:** Luger, Sting & Flair, Fytch, Luna, Austin.

### THE WRESTLER

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# The Wrestler

## TOP 10

- 1 YOKOZUNA**  
505, Samoa  
(1) WWF World champion
- 2 BIG VAN VADER**  
404 Denver, CO  
(2) WCW World champion
- 3 RAZOR RAMON**  
291, Minneapolis, MN  
(-) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 4 RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN  
(-) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
- 5 DUSTIN RHODES**  
254, Austin, TX  
(7) WCW U.S. champion
- 6 THE UNDERTAKER**  
320, parts unknown  
(10) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
- 7 RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN  
(5) No. 6 contender: WCW World title
- 8 BRET HART**  
235, Calgary, Alberta  
(4) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
- 9 BRIAN LEE**  
251, Los Angeles, CA  
(-) Smoky Mountain Champion
- 10 JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN  
(-) USWA champion



The Rock 'n' Roll Express

## WCW

**World Champion:**  
**BIG VAN VADER**  
(C) 404, Denver, CO

- 1—DUSTIN RHODES**  
(2) 254, Austin, TX
- 2—RICK RUDE**  
(3) 246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 3—RICK STEAMBOAT**  
(4) 238, Honolulu, HI
- 4—STING**  
(5) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—STEVE REGAL**  
(-) 247, Blackpool, England
- 6—RIC FLAIR**  
(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 7—SID VICIOUS**  
(8) 318, West Memphis, AR
- 8—SHOCKMASTER**  
(-) 407, Pittsburgh, PA
- 9—ARN ANDERSON**  
(-) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 10—PAUL ORNDORFF**  
(7) 253, Brandon, FL

## WWF

**World Champion:**  
**YOKOZUNA**  
(C) 505, Samoa

- 1—RAZOR RAMON**  
(8) 291, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—THE UNDERTAKER**  
(3) 320, parts unknown
- 3—BRET HART**  
(4) 235, Calgary, Alberta
- 4—RICK MARTEL**  
(-) 236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 5—TATANKA**  
(-) 260, Miami, FL
- 6—RANDY SAVAGE**  
(5) 245, Sarasota, FL
- 7—CURT HENNIG**  
(6) 240, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**  
(7) 245, Syracuse, NY
- 9—DIESEL**  
(-) 323, Reno, NV
- 10—BAM BAM BIGELOW**  
(-) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

## GLOBAL

**Heavyweight Champion:**  
**ICEMAN PARSONS**  
(C) 245, St. Louis, MO

- 1—CHRIS ADAMS**  
(2) 228, Stratford, England
- 2—BLACK BART**  
(4) 261, Pampa, TX
- 3—SCOTT PUTSKI**  
(5) 235, Austin, TX
- 4—JOHN HAWK**  
(6) 280, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—MIKE DAVIS**  
(-) 235, Tampa, FL
- 6—ANGEL OF DEATH**  
(10) 310, Los Angeles, CA
- 7—ALEX PORTEAU**  
(-) 235, Dallas, TX
- 8—MOADIB**  
(-) 285, parts unknown
- 9—STEVEN DANE**  
(8) 232, Dallas, TX
- 10—KILLER BROOKS**  
(7) 254, Waxahachie, TX

## USWA

**USWA Champion:**  
**JERRY LAWLER**  
(C) 234, Memphis, TN

- 1—TOMMY RICH**  
(2) 248, Hendersonville, TN
- 2—JEFF JARRETT**  
(1) 220, Hendersonville, TN
- 3—TATANKA**  
(-) 260, Miami, FL
- 4—RANDY SAVAGE**  
(-) 245, Sarasota, FL
- 5—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**  
(4) 230, Memphis, TN
- 6—SPELLBINDER**  
(-) 283, parts unknown
- 7—BULL PAIN**  
(-) 266, Columbia, SC
- 8—MIKE ANTHONY**  
(10) 205, Calgary, Alberta
- 9—DOG CATCHER**  
(-) 220, parts unknown
- 10—TONY FALK**  
(9) 237, Memphis, TN

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. While (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

## MOST POPULAR

<b>1</b>	<b>STING</b>
260, Venice Beach, CA	
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular	
<b>2</b>	<b>BRET HART</b>
235, Calgary, Alberta	
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular	
<b>3</b>	<b>TATANKA</b>
260, Miami, FL	
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular	
<b>4</b>	<b>RANDY SAVAGE</b>
245, Sarasota, FL	
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular	
<b>5</b>	<b>DUSTIN RHODES</b>
254, Austin, TX	
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular	
<b>6</b>	<b>LEX LUGER</b>
290, Chicago, IL	
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular	
<b>7</b>	<b>DAVEY BOY SMITH</b>
245, Leeds, England	
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular	
<b>8</b>	<b>CURT HENNIG</b>
240, Minneapolis, MN	
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular	
<b>9</b>	<b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b>
238, Honolulu, HI	
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular	
<b>10</b>	<b>JEFF JARRETT</b>
220, Hendersonville, TN	
Last issue: unrated	

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN

### Smoky Mountain Champion:

#### BRIAN LEE

(C) 251, Los Angeles, CA

<b>1</b> — <b>JIM DEL RAY</b>
(1) 234, Kingsport, TN
<b>2</b> — <b>TRACEY SMOTHERS</b>
(-) 227, Atlanta, GA
<b>3</b> — <b>TIM HORNER</b>
(3) 235, Morristown, TN
<b>4</b> — <b>CHRIS CANDIDO</b>
(4) 226, Carteret, NJ
<b>5</b> — <b>TONY ANTHONY</b>
(2) 235, Bucksport, TN
<b>6</b> — <b>RICK MORTON</b>
(7) 228, Memphis, TN
<b>7</b> — <b>TOM PRICHARD</b>
(-) 220, Houston, TX
<b>8</b> — <b>ROBERT GIBSON</b>
(10) 225, Pensacola, FL
<b>9</b> — <b>STEVE ARMSTRONG</b>
(-) 224, Marietta, GA
<b>10</b> — <b>SCOTT ARMSTRONG</b>
(-) 212, Marietta, GA

## MOST HATED

<b>1</b>	<b>BIG VAN VADER</b>
404, Denver, CO	
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated	
<b>2</b>	<b>YOKOZUNA</b>
505, Samoa	
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated	
<b>3</b>	<b>SID VICIOUS</b>
318, West Memphis, AR	
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated	
<b>4</b>	<b>RICK RUDE</b>
246, Robbinsdale, MN	
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated	
<b>5</b>	<b>JERRY LAWLER</b>
234, Memphis, TN	
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated	
<b>6</b>	<b>PAUL ORNDORFF</b>
253, Brandon, FL	
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated	
<b>7</b>	<b>STEVE REGAL</b>
247, Blackpool, England	
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated	
<b>8</b>	<b>BRIAN CHRISTOPHER</b>
230, Memphis, TN	
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated	
<b>9</b>	<b>MAXX PAYNE</b>
350, Iowa City, IA	
Last issue: unrated	
<b>10</b>	<b>SHAWN MICHAELS</b>
220, San Antonio, TX	
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated	

## IWCCW

### IWCCW Champion:

#### TITLE VACANT

(C) To be determined in tourney

<b>1</b> — <b>HERCULES</b>
(1) 255, Tampa, FL
<b>2</b> — <b>GREG VALENTINE</b>
(2) 243, Seattle, WA
<b>3</b> — <b>TONY ATLAS</b>
(3) 247, Roanoke, VA
<b>4</b> — <b>KOKO B. WARE</b>
(4) 229, Union City, TN
<b>5</b> — <b>KENDALL WINDHAM</b>
(5) 220, Sweetwater, TX
<b>6</b> — <b>JOE SAVOLDI</b>
(6) 220, Parsippany, NJ
<b>7</b> — <b>TASMANIAC</b>
(7) 232, Tasmania
<b>8</b> — <b>LANCE VON ERICH</b>
(8) 260, Arlington, TX
<b>9</b> — <b>TOMMY DREAMER</b>
(9) 245, Yonkers, NY
<b>10</b> — <b>JOHNNY WILDSIDE</b>
(10) 285, parts unknown

For period ended October 3, 1993

## CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

## SINGLES

1— <b>BIG VAN VADER</b> .....	81 points
2— <b>BRET HART</b> .....	74 points
3— <b>SHAWN MICHAELS</b> .....	50 points
4— <b>YOKOZUNA</b> .....	46 points
5— <b>DUSTIN RHODES</b> .....	40 points

## TAG TEAMS

1— <b>THE HOLLYWOOD BLONDS</b> .....	66 points
2— <b>RICK &amp; SCOTT STEINER</b> .....	63 points
3— <b>MONEY INC.</b> .....	63 points
4— <b>THE HEADSHRINKERS</b> .....	48 points
5— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT &amp; SHANE DOUGLAS</b> .....	47 points

**ECW: ECW Champion**—Sabu; 1—Terry Funk; 2—Jimmy Snuka; 3—Don Muraco; 4—Abdullah the Butcher; 5—Kevin Sullivan; 6—J. T. Smith; 7—Johnny Hot Body; 8—Tommy Cairo; 9—Metal Maniac; 10—The Sandman.

**ICWA: ICWA Champion**—Jumbo Barretta; 1—Frankie Rose; 2—Surgeon General; 3—Lanny Poffo; 4—Rico Frederico; 5—Kenny Kendall; 6—Jammin' Johnny; 7—Coconut Kid; 8—Bad Boy Bradley; 9—Bill Pain; 10—Sid Powers.

**PWA: PWA Champion**—The Hater; 1—Hawk; 2—Nailz; 3—The Punisher; 4—Jerry Lynn; 5—Brad Rheingans; 6—Tommy Ferrara; 7—Derrick Dukes; 8—Randy Gusto; 9—Billy Blaze; 10—Baron Von Raschke.

**PWF: PWF Champion**—Austin Steele; 1—Flaming Youth; 2—George South; 3—Italian Stallion; 4—Scotty McKeever; 5—Terry Austin; 6—Star Ryder; 7—Killdozer; 8—Russian Assassin I; 9—Cruel Connection II; 10—Russian Assassin II.

**SOUTHERN STATES WRESTLING: SSW Champion**—Wayne Rogers; 1—Jimmy Golden; 2—G. Q. Stratus; 3—Mike Samson; 4—The Mongolian Stomper; 5—Eddie Golden; 6—Danny Christian; 7—Billy Marshall; 8—Skyfire; 9—Keith Hart; 10—Alex Shore.

**USA: USA TV Champion**—Col. DeBeers; 1—Larry Oliver; 2—Crush; 3—Jesse Barr; 4—C. W. Bergstrom; 5—Bruiser Brian; 6—Lou Andrews; 7—Dane Rush; 8—John Rambo; 9—Karl Pope; 10—Jim Pope.

**WWA: WWA Champion**—Boy Gone Bad; 1—Friendly Frank; 2—Ray Odyssey; 3—Abudah Singh; 4—Ed the Razor; 5—Chris Powers; 6—Duane Gill; 7—Akita Koo; 8—Johnny Knight; 9—Chuck Warrington; 10—Venom.

**WWC: WWC Universal Champion**—Greg Valentine; 1—Invader I; 2—Ricky Santana; 3—The Barbarian; 4—Dusty Wolfe; 5—Mohammed Hussein; 6—El Bronco; 7—La Ley; 8—John Savage; 9—Giant Warrior; 10—Jose Luis Rivera.

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans**



**Jerry Lawler**

"The King" again holds this prize. (He won it for the 17th time, defeating WWF fan favorite/USWA rulebreaker Tatanka several weeks before we went to press.)

The next-best piece of championship hardware there is the Southern title, a belt held on six separate occasions by Tennessee favorite **Jeff Jarrett**. At press time, this title was held up following a controversial steel cage match between Jarrett and **Tommy Rich**.

The USWA, however, has renamed the titles. It now calls the USWA belt the "Unified" title, arguing that a **Lawler-Kerry Von Erich** match on December 13, 1988—won by Lawler to become what later became known as the *USWA* title—unified the World Class Championship Wrestling and AWA World titles. Lawler then called the title "unified," but only used that reference briefly.

And the old Southern belt is now referred to as the USWA title in Memphis.

The old AWA, however, never recognized the WCCW-AWA unification.

So, to avoid confusion—and because we're not sold on the argument for calling Lawler's title "unified"—we're sticking with the status quo: Lawler is *USWA* champ (at press time), and the *Southern* belt is held up.

Compared to WCW, the USWA's title situation is crystal clear ...

As of September 1, 1993, WCW severed all ties with the NWA. Prior to the split, we had recognized **Ric Flair** as NWA champion and **Arn Anderson** and **Paul Roma** as NWA (and WCW World) tag team champions.

A lot happened on September 19 at Fall Brawl, WCW's pay-per-view event. The Nasty Boys defeated Anderson and Roma, for one. That didn't cause us much confusion in the ratings. We simply recognized **Jerry Sags** and **Brian Knobs** as WCW World tag team

*A title is a title ... by any other name.* The hard work in compiling ratings is supposed to be determining what wrestlers—and in what order—are the top contenders to the many major titles. Deciding what to call the titles shouldn't be a problem ... should it? Well, only in WCW and in the USWA.

Let's start in **Jerry Lawler** country, the Memphis-based USWA. The top prize there is the USWA heavyweight title.

champions, but not NWA tag team champs.

But **Rick Rude** also defeated Flair that evening in Houston. WCW, unable to legally call Rude NWA champion, now bills him as "World" champion. Big problem! We have decided not to recognize that title since it would mean WCW had two world champions. **Big Van Vader** has been WCW World titleholder since St. Patrick's Day.

The Rude-Flair Fall Brawl match was a classic, and we recognize that the "Ravishing One's" victory was important, but as we've outlined in the related story on page 38, Rude's win made him champion of nothing.

This whole messy situation should be cleaned up in coming months. The NWA is expected to hold a tournament sometime in 1994 to determine a new champ; WCW will likely sanction a match to unify Rude's "title" with the WCW World belt.

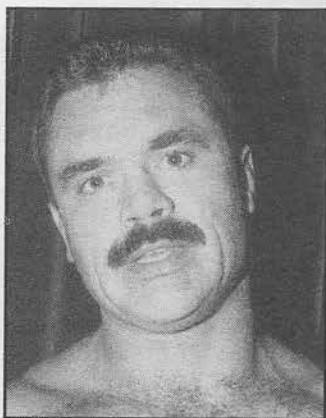
For the time being, the "Roll Call Of Champions" in our sister magazine *Inside Wrestling* will list the NWA heavyweight and NWA tag team titles as vacant. And since we don't recognize Rude's title, the U.S. champion—**Dustin Rhodes** at press time—will automatically receive the number-one contender slot in the WCW rankings. Nothing personal, Rick, we want to emphasize that.

Simple enough, right?

*A Vader is a Vader, by any other name.* When is Big Van Vader no longer Big Van Vader? When rights to the name are held by a Japanese wrestling promotion, that's when. That promotion is not allowing WCW to use the name in reference to their World champ. As a result, the Colorado power bomber is simply called "Vader" on all WCW TV programs.

To make things more complicated, he is referred to as "Super Vader" on some cards in the Orient. We're sticking with *Big Van Vader*—the name most used by the North American public.

*Are you confused?* If you are, you're not alone. Anyway, what do you think of the whole WCW/NWA situation? Is the title held by Mr. Rude somehow diminished in importance because of these turns of events outside his control? Let us know your opinions. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o THE WRESTLER, Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034.



**Rick Rude**

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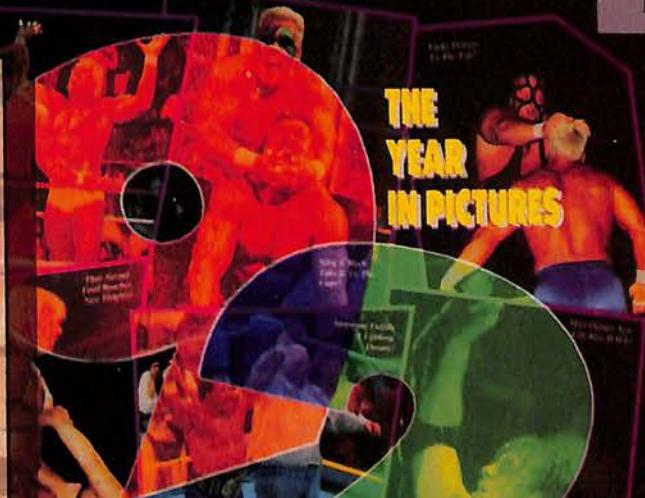
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